

Community of Christ  
Central (USA) Mission Center

Priest

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINATION FORM FOR PRIEST

I recommend \_\_\_\_\_ Register Number \_\_\_\_\_

For ordination to the office of PRIEST.

Candidate's residence (address) \_\_\_\_\_

Currently enrolled in (congregation) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Vocation \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate number of years as: Church Member \_\_\_\_\_ Priesthood \_\_\_\_\_

Any previous priesthood offices held \_\_\_\_\_

Current marital status, approximate number of years: Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_

Check if candidate has to your knowledge ever been: Widowed \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse is member of: Community of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Other church or faith \_\_\_\_\_ None \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse will be comfortable with this call: Highly \_\_\_\_\_ Fairly \_\_\_\_\_ Little \_\_\_\_\_

Education (show graduation or degree, or number of years attended):

Elementary \_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_ Four-Year College \_\_\_\_\_

Postgraduate Work \_\_\_\_\_ Other Training \_\_\_\_\_

Further training needed for this office: Extensive \_\_\_\_\_ Moderate \_\_\_\_\_ Little \_\_\_\_\_

As pastor (or other appropriate administrative officer), I present this recommendation as my own serious conviction of this call.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Official Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: This call should be discussed only with proper administrative officers or others who will not share confidential information. Send this form to the mission center president. *DO NOT APPROACH THE CANDIDATE ABOUT THE CALL UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED CLEARANCE TO DO SO.*)

**I. Personal (Ministerial) Characteristics**

To fulfill an ordained ministerial role in the Community of Christ, it is expected that candidates would demonstrate Christian values and characteristics, that their lives would be "in order" with regard to morality and personal and family relationships, and that they would demonstrate special gifts and potential for ministry. It is not expected that a candidate will have strengths in all of the following areas.

Please indicate your perception of how the candidate demonstrates each of the following personal/ministerial characteristics by marking the appropriate category with an "X." We invite you to comment on any areas under "May Need Improvement."

<b>Personal/Ministerial Characteristic</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>May Need Improvement</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Commitment to Serving Christ (an affirmative testimony)				
Ethical Behavior (integrity, values driven, Christ-like example)				
Healthy Lifestyle and Habits				
Accepting/Non-Judgmental Attitude				
Humility				
Caring, Compassionate Interpersonal Relationships				
Respected by Others				
Moderate to High Degree of Vitality/Energy				
Initiative/Self-Starter				
Scriptural Knowledge				
Knowledge of Church Beliefs				
Supportive of Community of Christ mission, program, and beliefs				
Commitment to Continue Learning				
Dependability				
History of Generous Giving to Local and World Church Needs				
Enduring Personal/Spiritual Relationship with God				
Advocate for Peace and Justice				

**Comments on any "May Need Improvement" Items**

## II. Priesthood Duties for Office of PRIEST

The duties and responsibilities for the office of priest in the Community of Christ are grounded in scripture (found in the Doctrine and Covenants) and influenced by the traditions and expectations of today's church.

In Doctrine and Covenants Section 17:10, we find guidance on the duties of a priest. We invite you to read through this section, and also Chapter 5 of *The Priesthood Manual*, and reflect upon the actual duties listed

- Provide family ministry by presenting the gospel of Christ, visiting homes, and encouraging spiritual development
- Preach, teach, expound, and exhort the church
- Perform sacraments of baptism, Lord's Supper, marriage, and ordination of other Aaronic priesthood members, as called upon by the church
- Travel as a missionary
- Provide congregational leadership in the stead of an elder, as needed

More recently, the church has given additional emphasis to the idea that the priest is a minister of presence, modeling Jesus as Friend. That role is expressed in the following ways

- Interacts with families and groups within the church and community to support spiritual growth and discipleship response
- Shares Christ with others to bring peace and wholeness
- Actively engages in the sacramental and worship life of the church
- Promotes inclusive involvement of all in the life of the church
- Is involved in and is aware of community services that uplift those in need
- Advocates for members, groups, and families throughout the community

These duties are influenced by both the giftedness of the individual minister and the ministerial expectations for the role. We know that priests possessing these expectations or competencies, and readily sharing them with others, tend to provide enriching, fulfilling ministry both inside and outside the church. **We also know that, in many ways, it is these ministerial expectations or competencies that help us discern the call to priest in contrast to deacon, teacher, or elder.**

On the next page, you will be asked to evaluate the priesthood candidate on the ministerial expectations for the office of priest.

**III. Ministerial Competencies for Office of PRIEST**

A priesthood candidate will not likely demonstrate strength in all of the expectations of the office to which they are called. It is to be expected that they will grow and develop greater capacity for some of the ministerial expectations, though may never feel comfortable in, or fulfill, some of the expectations of an office.

Please indicate your perception of those role expectations that you see the candidate demonstrating with strength at this time or those that (s)he has the potential to develop. Please use an "X" to indicate your perception.

<b>Expectations for Ministry</b>	<b>Current Strength/Gift</b>	<b>Potential to Develop</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
1. Shares God's gift of unconditional love for family and group members			
2. Interacts with families and groups to support their spiritual growth and discipleship response through prayer, knowledge of scripture, and nurturing relationships			
3. Extends the hand of friendship to those with broken spirits and assists in finding pathways for healing			
4. Shares the ministry of Christ to bring peace and wholeness to every life, both through individual and programmatic avenues (ie: youth groups, Young Peacemakers Club, scripture study, priesthood visiting, etc.)			
5. Understands and appreciates the importance of the sacraments to the church			
6. Actively participates in the worship life of the congregation and church			
7. Promotes presence and participation in church life, accepting assignments for leadership and ministry opportunities			
8. Is involved in and knowledgeable about community services that may assist those in need			
9. Serves as an advocate for members, families, and groups throughout the community (workplace, schools, civic organizations, social agencies)			

**Comments Regarding Ministerial Competencies**

**IV. Additional Candidate Information**

1. What kinds of ministry has the candidate already been providing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What other information do you think is pertinent about this candidate?

**V. Family/Congregational Support and Issues**

1. How do you anticipate the candidate's family/spouse will react to this call? What concerns or issues may be encountered?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you anticipate the congregation will react to this call? What concerns or issues may be encountered?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How do you anticipate using this candidate's strengths, gifts, and ministry within the congregation? Are there any concerns or issues in this area?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How will this candidate's ordination affect the balance of ministry in the congregation (by offices and gifts)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How much time and commitment will the candidate be willing/able to offer to the call and to serving the needs of the congregation? What concerns or issues may be encountered?

