

Community of Christ

Teacher

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINATION FORM FOR TEACHER

I recommend _____ Register Number _____

For ordination to the office of TEACHER.

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."

Personal/Ministerial Characteristic	Strong	Moderate	May Need Improvement	Not Sure
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				
Advocates for Peace and Justice				

Comments on any "May Need Improvement" Items

II. Priesthood Duties for Office of TEACHER

The duties and responsibilities for the office of teacher 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 17:11a-b, we find guidance on the duties of a teacher. We invite you to read through this section, and also Chapter 5 of *The Priesthood Manual*, and reflect upon the actual duties listed

- Watch over, be with, and strengthen the membership
- Encourage the church to meet often
- Preach, teach, and exhort the church
- Share in reconciling ministry with those who have taken offense with another or the church
- Counsel and lead people into paths of righteousness

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

- Encourages all to share in the blessings of community
- Advocates home ministry
- Honors the worth of each person and his or her life experience
- Works to build positive self-concepts in others
- Promotes the pursuit of peace through healthy relationships and upholding peace and justice issues to the church
- Is available to provide appropriate ministry or support to those in conflict
- Upholds an environment of listening and understanding among people

These duties are influenced by both the giftedness of the individual minister and the ministerial expectations for the role. We know that teachers 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 teacher in contrast to deacon, priest, or elder.**

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

III. Ministerial Competencies for Office of TEACHER

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 competencies/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.

Expectations for Ministry	Current Strength/Gift	Potential to Develop	Not Sure
1. Promotes the development and nurturing of a healing, redeeming, and prayerful environment			
2. Is sensitive to the needs of the congregation			
3. Encourages participation and inclusion of all to share in the blessings in the community			
4. Respects each person and expresses compassion for his or her life journey			
5. Helps individuals build positive self-images and self-esteem; promotes the inherent worth of persons			
6. Partners with evangelists to provide ministry that empowers spiritual development			
7. Assists persons in building peaceful relationships based on love and acceptance			
8. Fosters development of positive communication and interaction			
9. Promotes awareness of peace and justice issues in the church and community			
10. Promotes an environment that is ready to listen and slow to criticize			
11. Facilitates compromise and/or consensus; is available for ministry should conflict arise			
12. Encourages the use of trained individuals to address conflict			

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?

VI. Testimony of Divine/Inspired Calling Of Candidate

Briefly describe your experience(s) that led you to consider the call of this candidate inspired/divine.

VII. Future Development/Preparation of the Candidate

1. Along with the three (3) Temple School courses required prior to ordination (Introduction to Caring Ministries, Introduction to Understanding Scriptures, and role-specific ministry), what additional preparation will you recommend for this candidate? What development will be needed?

2. What plans do you have for the new ordinand to be mentored by an experienced priesthood member?

3. If the candidate has not been an active financial contributor to local and World Church programs/funds, what counsel will you provide them?