

# IN-CARE PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

## Introduction to the *In-Care* Process

Welcome to the *In-Care* process!

You have taken the first step towards a rewarding and Spirit-led process that *may* lead you to being ordained to the Christian ministry via the United Church of Christ. Let us introduce you to the process of being taken *in-care* by the New Jersey Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The New Jersey Association's Pre-Ordination Commission is charged, on behalf of the United Church of Christ, with helping persons like you, who feel called to ordained ministry, to clarify and test their call to ministry. This is done so that you, the one feeling called, and the church are satisfied that the person seeking ordained status will be well suited to exercise the functions of that title and position.

A variety of requirements and procedures are used to fulfill this responsibility. This packet outlines all that is required to fulfill your end of that responsibility.

It must be noted that being taken *in-care* does not in any way mean you are to act, function, or feel you are an ordained, licensed, or commissioned minister. It means, quite simply, you have been presented to us with an initial *appearance of the potential to possibly* be ordained to the Christian ministry via the United Church of Christ *some day*. This *appeared potential* is subsequently nurtured and *cared for* by our unfolding relationship as we move forward to ascertain the validity of that first impression. It means, quite Biblically, we call on the Holy Spirit to give us the guidance and the wisdom to validate your personal call within the context of community within the United Church of Christ.

If you have any questions as you proceed, do not hesitate to ask your advisor, the Association's Conference Minister, your local church pastor or the Pre-Ordination chairperson. We recommend you consult one of these resources on any concern or question you may have.

We are excited to join you on this journey. Yes, this is a journey that is, in part, about clarifying your individual call to ordained ministerial status. And yet, it is, even more importantly, about identifying, nourishing and validating the covenantal nature of that individual call within the community of the United Church of Christ.

Please spend considerable time looking over this packet, making notes, and prayerfully processing all that will be expected of you as our journey unfolds. This is important. This will change your life. It will change ours. It will change the world. And, finally, its purpose ought to help bring in the realm of God.

Peace and Blessings,

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Pre-Ordination Commission Signatory

Date Signed