

Licensed Minister Statement of Agreement and Understanding (page 1 of 3)

Dear Licensed Minister:

Welcome to being a *Licensed Minister* in the New Jersey Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ!

Please read the following as it outlines the boundaries of your *Licensed Minister* status. This was granted to you by the authorization of the Pre-Ordination Commission of the New Jersey Association.

Suggested definition of *Licensed Ministry* (from the Manual on Ministry):¹

“Licensed ministry is a form of ministry in the United Church of Christ created by the adoption of 1983–1984 amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. While replacing the category of lay minister, licensed ministry continues this form of ministry but establishes much more comprehensive requirements and standards for it. Licensed ministry is a form of ministry in and on behalf of the Church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required.

By definition, a licensed minister performs specified duties in a designated local church or within an Association, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship. Licensed ministry has been created by the United Church of Christ for those special situations when ordained ministers are not available to provide these services to a local church. Licensed ministry, therefore, is a form of service through which those persons who are not ordained fulfill some of the functions more generally performed by ordained ministers.

Licensed ministry is of two primary types within the United Church of Christ: licensed ministers available for “pulpit supply” or “supply preaching” from church to church in an Association and licensed ministers who serve over an extended period as pastors of small-membership churches that, for a period of time, have little prospect of securing a fully trained, ordained minister.

Licensed ministry is not a track to ordination and is no substitute for meeting all the educational and other requirements for ordained ministry. However, seminarians preparing for ordination are not precluded from being licensed for service in a local church while enrolled in and attending seminary.”

After reading this definition and in consultation with the Pre-Ordination Commission of the New Jersey Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, I understand and attest to the following:

¹ Manual on Ministry (MOM); Perspectives and Procedures for Ecclesiastical Authorization of Ministry; Parish Life and Leadership Ministry, Local Church Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ; Section 7; page 2

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- I understand that being granted *Licensed Minister* status does not constitute permission or authorization to act as an ordained minister.
- I understand that I will be supervised during the duration of my *Licensed Minister* status and I agree that I will be in regular contact with my supervisor:
 - Supervisor: _____.
- I understand that my being granted *Licensed Minister* status is done only to a) a specified setting for b) a specified period of time with c) specified functions:
 - Date of being granted *Licensed Minister* status: _____.
 - Specified Setting: _____.
 - Specified Time Period: _____.
 - Specified Functions: _____.
 - To include or not include (circle one) permission to perform the sacraments in that specified setting for that specified period of time.
 - I understand that I am not to perform *any* ministerial functions outside the very specific boundaries for which I was licensed (see above).
 - I understand that if I have any questions on how to serve in the capacity of my *Licensed Minister* status, I will first consult with my Advisor, and, if necessary, the Association Conference Minister before acting.
- I understand that my Licensed Minister status cannot be transferred to another Association.
- I understand that my *Licensed Minister* status will be reviewed annually.
- I understand that my *Licensed Minister* status may be terminated at any time either by the Pre-Ordination Commission or myself.
- I understand that the Pre-Ordination Commission may terminate my *Licensed Minister* status without giving cause.
- I understand that the Pre-Ordination Commission may suspend my *Licensed Minister* status without giving cause.

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- I understand and attest to my plan, if I have not already done so, to read the *Manual on Ministry*.
- I understand that the requirements for my *Licensed Minister* status is determined by the Pre-Ordination Commission on behalf of the New Jersey Association and that said Commission has the sole authority to do so.
- I attest that information I give, both written and oral, to the Pre-Ordination Commission is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for the termination of my *Licensed Minister* status.

I understand and agree to the conditions stated above.

Licensed Minister

Date signed.

Signed for by the Pre-Ordination Commission

Date signed.