

Appendix #9 – Guidelines for Writing the Ordination Papers

(Each paper between 2-3 pages, font 12, double spaced. Write tightly, and review!)

The purpose of the ordination papers is to explore your bridge between theory and practice, theology and praxis, classroom and books to pulpit and community. It also seeks to explore your personal “call” to ministry.

Approach the organization of your papers in any way you choose. We recommend you NOT use footnotes. The focus of the ordination papers is you and your approach to ministry. In addition to the content of your papers, we want to experience your ability to express yourself—concisely and thoroughly. There are four papers total. Each one should be between 2-3 pages (no more!), using Times Roman font 12, and double spaced. In your papers, please cover the following:

1. Your Theological Basis for Ministry

Explore your understanding and faith regarding your personal theology as it pertains to ministry, to the church, as well as your approach to Scripture.

2. Your Relationship with Disciples of Christ – “Why Disciples?”

What do you find most attractive and least attractive about ministry in the tradition and heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? How does your answer help form your understanding of the nature of the Church? Explore your assumptions in the context of Disciples of Christ (its tradition, approach, and heritage). Address your assumptions regarding authority and freedom. How do you honor the “Priesthood of all Believers?”

3. Your Practice of Ministry

Given your theological paradigm, discuss what ministry means to you and how you engage in it. Please be as specific as possible, relating your understandings to the practice of ministry, exploring how you might assess local situations, describing your leadership style, and how you might negotiate your ideals with the realities in your ministry setting and the global situation. In the practice of your ministry, what specifically do you view as your strengths and weakness? Reflect upon cross-cultural competency in relation to your ministry.

4. Personal Readiness

Reflect on what ordination means to you and your commitment to it. Explore specifically what experiences/insights compels you to ministry and how the sixteen competencies shape your vocation. What renews your spirit and keeps your “calling” alive?

*Thank you for sharing your reflections.
We look forward to reading your ordination paper.*