

**Becoming a UCC Church**  
**Rocky Mountain Conference UCC 2022**

**1. Inquiry**

- a. Church initiates conversation with the Formation & Authorization Subcommittee of the RMC and expresses interest in joining the UCC
- b. FAS team meets with congregational and church leaders to determine roadmap and covenanting process
- c. Local church forms a local church discernment team if it has not already done so.

**2. Roadmap**

a. UCC Background

For churches who have an established relationship with the UCC by ministerial standing or congregational participation in wider church activities.

- i. Why UCC conversation with FAS
- ii. Determine appropriate wider-church discernment team (FAS, Association, Mentor Church, others as appropriate)
- iii. FAS Team presents the Marks, explains the way in which we engage them, and offers ideas for how to be in conversation about them in their church

b. Entry from Other Denominations

For churches who are exiting their current denomination to join the UCC

- i. Why UCC conversation with FAS, why leaving current denomination, what is your exit plan?
- ii. Determine appropriate wider-church discernment team (FAS, Association, Mentor Church, others as appropriate)
- iii. FAS Team presents the Marks, explains the way in which we engage them, and offers ideas for how to be in conversation about them in their church

c. New Church Starts

For churches who are forming or have formed in the last 3 years and have no current denominational affiliation.

- i. Why UCC conversation with FAS
- ii. Determine appropriate wider-church discernment team (FAS, Association, Mentor Church, others as appropriate)
- iii. FAS Team presents the Marks, explains the way in which we engage them, and offers ideas for how to be in conversation about them in their church

d. Covenantal Partners

For all churches who have denominational affiliation and who intend to affiliate with the UCC in addition to other denomination(s).

- i. Why UCC conversation with FAS, why multiple, how do the various affiliations work together?
- ii. Conversations with leadership from other denominations
- iii. Determine appropriate wider-church discernment team (FAS, Association, Mentor Church, others as appropriate)
- iv. FAS Team presents the Marks, explains the way in which we engage them, and offers ideas for how to be in conversation about them in their church

### **3. Covenant Creation**

- a. RMC  
Polity  
Ministerial Oversight
  - i. Ministerial Standing process with FAS
  - ii. Resource hub
  - iii. Verify necessary documentation?? -*Check with Erin on what needs to be in DataHub*
- b. Association  
Invitation to relationship & community
  - i. Reviewing the Church's Marks evaluation, discussing strengths, identifying resources that would be helpful
- c. Local Church  
Engaging the Marks  
Connection to process and wider church
  - i. Looking at the Marks of Churches, completing evaluation and reviewing with Association
- d. Mentor Church  
Process guide and supporting body
  - i. Mission & Vision
  - ii. Journaling the Journey-type conversations together

### **4. Ministerial Standing**

- a. Ministers with Current UCC Standing
  - i. Validation of ministerial standing requirements have been met and are current. Any outstanding ministerial standing requirements must be met.
- b. Ministers without Any Standing
  - i. Lay ministerial standing process for a limited amount of time to allow the minister to engage in the MID process. Position of Trust completed, Anti-Racism has begun (not necessarily complete, if active in process). Psych evaluation completed and approved by FAS before lay ministerial standing is granted.
  - ii. As an alternative to membership requirement, the Minister would be asked to engage in a UCC community of practice with other ministers as they discern a sense of call so
- c. Ministers with Standing in Other Denominations
  - i. Transfer of standing complete.
- d. Lay Ministers
  - i. Lay ministerial standing process completed. Position of Trust completed, Anti-Racism has begun (not necessarily complete, if active in process)

### **5. Welcome & Celebration**

- a. Checklist is completed
- b. Final conversation with entire discernment team (incl. Local church discernment team), all of FAS, and at least one conference minister (or ACM)
  - i. Review what has been discerned
  - ii. Share mission & vision
  - iii. Answer any outstanding questions
  - iv. Evaluate process
- c. FAS votes to grant standing

- d. Covenanting Service
- e. Introduction to Conference
- f. Presentation to Conference at Annual Celebration & General Synod

#### Required Checklist

- Letter of request for standing
- Conference required documentation
- Ministerial Standing (incl. HMR, Anti-Racism training)
- Letter stating intention of minister or ministers to seek ministerial standing in the UCC
- Covenant with RMC

#### Recommended Documentation (for Churches, not for FAS)

- Constitution & bylaws
- Articles of Incorporation
- List of officers
- Minutes of congregational meeting where they voted to join the UCC
- Membership statistics
- Most recent two annual reports of the congregation
- Most recent treasurer's report
- Bios of pastoral leadership
- Overview of programs & ministries of the congregation
- Any other pertinent info