

Community of Christ
Central (USA) Mission Center

Elder

For office use:
Date received: _____
Youth Worker Registration
Yes _____ No _____

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINATION

Name _____ Register Number _____

Candidate's residence (address) _____

Currently enrolled in (congregation) _____

Date of birth: _____ Sex _____ Vocation _____

Approximate number of years as church member: ___0-2 years ___3-10 years ___ 10+ years

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

Priesthood faithfulness begins with faithful discipleship. Faithful discipleship emerges from ongoing faith and spiritual formation. The constant call is to follow the Living Christ and to abide in increasing measure in God’s love and vision for creation. Being comes before doing.

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
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			
Commitment to Continue Learning			
Dependability			
History of Generous Giving to Local and World Church Needs			
Enduring Personal/Spiritual Relationship with God			
Advocate for Peace and Justice			

Comment on any “May Need Improvement” items.

II. Covenant Principles for Faithful Priesthood Ministry

Priesthood faithfulness begins with faithful discipleship. Faithful discipleship emerges from ongoing faith and spiritual formation. The constant call is to follow the Living Christ and to abide in increasing measure in God's love and vision for creation. Being comes before doing.

The following expectations will help me serve as a faithful priesthood member. In response to God's sacred call and priesthood authority granted by Community of Christ, **I covenant to...**

- Engage in ongoing faith and spiritual practices to deepen my relationship with God and others through study and spiritual formation.
- Affirm and promote Christ's mission of invitation, compassionate ministries, and justice and peacemaking; helping prepare others for Christ's mission; and partnering with other priesthood in leading congregations in Christ's mission.
- Provide ministry consistent with the church's identity, mission, message, and beliefs as expressed in *Sharing in Community of Christ: Exploring Identity, Mission, Message, and Beliefs*, 3rd Edition (www.CofChrist.org/ourfaith/SharingCofChrist-3ed.pdf) and other current official documents.
- Model an ethical, moral, and holistic lifestyle.
- Model generosity as a regular contributor to mission tithes (local, mission center, and worldwide ministries), according to my true capacity.
- Protect the safety and well-being of children and youth, including, where applicable, being a Registered Children and Youth Worker.
- Actively participate in congregational life or similar church expressions when congregational life is not available.
- Participate annually in educational or spiritual-formation experiences offered by my congregation, mission center, apostolic mission field, or World Church.
- Develop and implement a plan for ministry that uses my gifts to advance Christ's mission.

Comment on the candidate's strengths or areas that may need improvement in regard to the above covenant principles.

III. Ministerial Expectations for Office of ELDER

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.

The duties and responsibilities for the office of elder 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.

See Doctrine and Covenants Section 17 and 83, Chapter 5 of *The Priesthood Manual*, and *Ministry and Priesthood* brochure.

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
Represent Christ primarily as ministers of congregational community-building who develop disciples to serve and lead congregations in mission		
Especially proclaim and promote Christ-centered congregational community and experiencing congregations in mission		
Particularly minister with congregations to build sacred community and engage in Christ’s mission		
Support sacramental ministries by preparing congregations for sacramental encounters with God; preside at sacramental services and perform most sacraments		
Promote community by weaving individuals, households, and families into congregations engaged in Christ’s mission		
Promote justice and peacemaking by leading justice and peacemaking in and through congregations		
Create ministry partnerships with pastors, mission center officers, priests, seventies, high priests, and evangelists		

Comments Regarding Ministerial Competencies

IV. Additional Candidate Information

1. What kinds of ministry has the candidate already been providing?

2. How will this candidate support, promote, and live out the identity, mission, message, and beliefs of Community of Christ?

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) and becoming a Registered Youth Worker (if not already), 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?