

MINISTRY ESSAY SUGGESTIONS FROM MESA

As part of their ongoing instructions and orientation to pastors MESA (UCC Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization) offered the following suggestions for content within the 4 Ministry Essay Questions of the New Ministerial Profile.

1) My sense of being called by God and the church to authorized ministry (from "Spiritual Foundation for Ministry" section of *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ*). (Required)

You can shape this statement in any way you wish. You might include brief statements about your call to ordained ministry or church vocation, your spiritual pilgrimage, your vocational pilgrimage, and/or your basic theological orientation!!

2) My concept of covenant and how it informs the nature, purpose, and polity of the United Church of Christ (from "UCC Identity for Ministry" section of *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ*). (Required)

You can shape this statement in any way you wish. You might include brief statements about your understanding of the ministry and mission of the Church (the local congregation and other church settings), and of the ministry and mission of the United Church of Christ in particular. You might also use this space to identify your leadership style and your perspective on the role & relationship of authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ.

3) I am passionate about (Required)

You can shape this statement in any way you wish. Just as the "Gifts and Talents" portion of the Snapshot highlights your skillsets for Conference staff persons, this space can highlight your skillsets and interests for those who read your Profile. You might write about ecumenical and civic activities, professional achievements, etc.

4) Reflect on one mark from the "Personal and Professional Formation for Ministry" section of *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ* (Please state which Mark that you will be reflecting on). (Required)

You can shape this statement in any way you wish. You might identify your leadership style and experiences, your continuing education history, and more.