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CLERGY MANUAL ADDENDUM

Asia Protocol 2015

Office of Formation and Leadership Development
E-Mail: OFLD@MCCchurch.net Web: ofd.mccchurch.org

Introduction

The *Asia Protocol for MCC Ordination* applies to:

- Residents of Asia who are preparing for ordination by MCC into vocational ministry; and
- Residents of Asia who are ordained by another denomination and seeking to gain professional standing in MCC (Transfer Clergy).

The process of becoming a professional clergyperson in Metropolitan Community Churches is managed by the [MCC Office of Formation & Leadership Development](#). The [MCC Clergy Manual](#) contains a full explanation of the global ordination process, requirements, and expectations. The *Asia Protocol for MCC Ordination* is a supplement to the *MCC Clergy Manual* (see Chapter 1 of the *MCC Clergy Manual*) and addresses questions and processes that are particular to the context of ministry in Asia.

Preparing for Ordination in MCC (supplements Chapter 3 of the MCC Clergy Manual)

Readiness for Entering Vocational Ministry (REVM) Retreat

To apply for a REVM, individuals should:

- Have been an active Christian in a local church or Christian organization for at least three (3) years; and
- Submit the following:
 - Three (3) personal references from people who have known you for at least three (3) years (excluding family members)
 - A Letter of Endorsement from an MCC clergy person, Network Leader, Elder, or the Director of the MCC Office of Emerging Ministries
 - Official transcripts verifying any university and/or seminary education
 - A psychological and/or medical report to verify fitness for ministry, when possible
 - A current resume/curriculum vitae that includes both employment and educational history
 - A digital photo of yourself
 - A 1500-word paper detailing your Call to Ministry, specifically to MCC ministry
 - A 1500-word paper describing your Spiritual Journey
 - How did you come to faith in Christ?
 - Which other churches (if any) were you involved in prior to MCC?
 - What did you like about them?
 - What did you not like about them?

- Describe your involvement in the other church(es).
- Why did you leave?
- What made you feel drawn to MCC as a denomination?
- A 1500-word paper on your Sense of Vocation
 - Why do you believe God is calling you to ordained ministry?
 - How have you perceived that calling?
 - What ministry do you feel called to perform that cannot be done as a lay person?
 - What skills and experience do you have that makes you believe that ordained ministry is where your talents will be best used?

The application will be reviewed by the Asia Ministry Development Team and the Director of the Office of Formation and Leadership Development; only approved applicants may participate in a REVM Retreat.

Elements of a Ministry Action Plan (MAP)

Relationship with MCC (the broader denomination)

People preparing for ministry in MCC should have a positive, ongoing relationship with the denomination. Some of the ways in which we encourage this include:

- **Local church.** The relationship with MCC can begin in a local church; through a local church Pastor, Network Leader, Elder, or MCC staff member; or through a virtual connection with MCC through the MCC Office of Emerging Ministries or Office of Formation and Leadership Development. A local church Pastor, Network Leader, Elder, or the Director of the MCC Office of Emerging Ministries may endorse a candidate for REVM.
- **Attendance at REVM.** A potential ordination candidate may participate in either a virtual or face-to-face REVM Retreat. Upon acceptance into the MCC ordination process, the participant is considered to be In Care with MCC and becomes part of the Asia In-Care Cohort.
- **Attendance at MCC Conferences, Meetings, and Events.** We encourage all students in Asia to attend General Conference, Network Gatherings, trainings, events, and meetings held by MCC. All students are also encouraged to attend events that are sponsored by Amplify.
- **Visit other MCC's.** We further encourage all students to visit other MCC congregations beyond their home church to further understand, experience, and appreciate the diversity of MCC. Such visits can include exploring the websites of other MCC congregations, watching sermon videos, and participating in the congregation's virtual worship experiences.
- **Supervised Ministry Experience.** Students are required to complete a supervised ministry experience (internship) for at least one (1) year in an approved setting under the supervision of an approved supervisor appointed by the Office of

Formation and Leadership Development. This supervised ministry experience must be pre-approved by the Office of Formation and Leadership Development. Its purpose is to develop the characteristics of professional spiritual leaders in MCC. During this time, your supervisor will work with you to develop and implement your skills in the practice of pastoral ministry and help you in your process of theological and personal reflection on the practice of ministry. The supervisor will be the one to endorse you and write a final narrative evaluation as part of your application for ordination. For Transfer Clergy, this supervised ministry experience serves to ground and apply your previous pastoral knowledge and experience to the context of MCC ministry.

Education

The Bachelor of Theology or a three- to five-year degree in a theological discipline is the minimum requirement for educational preparation for vocational ministry in Asia.

MCC-specific courses are also required, including:

- Sexuality Studies
- LGBTI/Queer History
- MCC Polity and History

These courses are offered online by the OFLD.

Spiritual Formation

This part of the MAP is designed to assist the ordination candidate to cultivate a lifetime of spiritual practice for ongoing spiritual formation. The candidate will:

- Work with a mentor or spiritual director
- Engage in a variety of spiritual practices
- Write a spiritual reflection paper on the formation experience at the end of each year

Applying for Ordination

After you have completed all of the requirements outlined in your MAP, you may apply for ordination. The [OFLD website](#) contains the application for ordination form, which you submit to the OFLD along with supporting documentation, including:

- Completed application form
- Endorsement from the Director of the Office of Emerging Ministries
- Other endorsements as indicated in the application form
- A 3- to 5-page Narrative Evaluation from the Supervisor of your supervised ministry experience
- Submission of a 1500-word Statement of Faith, including a description of what you feel called by God to do in ministry after ordination.