



MCC[®]

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

REVM
(Readiness for Entering Vocational Ministry)

&

‘In Care’

documents

for Students, Pastors and Boards

Readiness for Entering Vocational Ministry (REVM) Retreat

The process of preparation for professional spiritual leadership in MCC begins with this guided spiritual retreat opportunity. REVM is offered semi-annually and provides the venue to meet with others who sense a similar calling to vocational ministry. REVM offers an explanation of the process for preparation for ministry, overview of the core characteristics of a ministry vocation in MCC, evaluation of psychological testing, development of a Ministry Action Plan (MAP) for ministry preparation, and a time of connection with mentors and others who have served in ministerial roles within MCC.

The REVM staff will provide each participant with an assessment of readiness to begin the process of preparation for ministry in MCC. This assessment will be used for ongoing discernment and for review by the participant and the participant's supervisor and endorsing body.

Participation in REVM is dependant upon the recommendation of a local MCC Pastor or an Elder.

The criteria for recommendation are:

- + Willingness to enter into a mentoring relationship with a MCC Pastor
- + Identifiable gifts for ministry
- + Academic ability to engage and complete theological education
- + Willingness to be in ongoing conversation regarding ministry in our wider denomination.

Timeline for REVM Preparation

Three months prior to REVM application deadline

Read and study the [MCC Clergy Manual](#)

At least 10 weeks prior to REVM application deadline

Seek letter of recommendation and endorsements from your local MCC Pastor and Board to attend REVM (forms included in this packet)

At least 8 weeks prior to REVM application deadline

Complete psychological testing.
([Click here for a list of approved testing centers](#); test results are to be released to Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Associate Director of Formation and Leadership Development, 3145 Readsborough Court, Fairfax, VA 22031, USA)

Six weeks prior to REVM application deadline

Submit Background Check Release Form to the Office of Formation and Leadership Development (form included in this packet)

Four weeks prior to REVM

Apply to attend REVM (application and forms in this packet)

Submit to the Office of Formation and Leadership Development

- Endorsement forms with application, letter of recommendation from local MCC Pastor or Elder
- Official transcripts of previous education
- Detailed resume or curriculum vitae (secular and religious)
- Statement of Call to Ministry (3-5 pages)
- Psychological test results must be on file with the Office of Formation and Leadership Development

In-Care Status and Internship

Upon successful completion of the REVM, one may be granted In-Care status with MCC and approved to enter a time of ministerial formation. The period of formation is comprised of three primary elements:

Personal Spiritual Formation

Education for Vocational Ministry

Relationship with the Denomination

The In-Care journey is guided by an MCC clergyperson who meets at least monthly with the student to guide, supervise, and evaluate the student in the above elements as they are detailed on the student's MAP.

At least one year prior to application for ordination, the student shall complete an Internship with the guidance of an Internship Supervisor. The Intern meets weekly with a Supervisor who guides and evaluates the work of the Intern and, ultimately, approves the Intern for ordination. The internship is a time of practice in the components of ministry and is guided by the student's MAP and a Learning Covenant created by the Supervisor and the Intern.

**Application for LOCAL Church
BOARD Endorsement
to Enter In-Care Status**

Church _____ Date _____

Name of Applicant _____

Applicant's Address _____

Applicant's Email _____ Phone _____

Applicant will please respond briefly to the following:

1. Plans to attend the *Readiness to Enter Vocational Ministry* Retreat

2. Plans to establish relationship with an MCC Pastor to guide your process of preparation

3. Your plans for theological study

4. Your plans to fulfill the requirement of psychological testing

ATTACHMENTS

1. Please attach a separate document (3-5 pages) articulating (in a fairly detailed way) your call to ministry.
2. Attach also the letter of recommendation from your local MCC Pastor or Elder to attend the *Readiness to Enter Vocational Ministry* Retreat

FUNDING REQUEST

In addition to the Board recommendation to enter In-Care status with MCC, does this application also present a request for funding assistance by this local congregation? ___ Yes ___ No If so, please itemize the details of your financial request, i.e., do you need funds for psychological testing, travel, conference and/or educational fees? What is the amount of each request and the timing of your financial need?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTE TO ENDORSE FOR IN-CARE STATUS

___ Yes ___ No _____, Vice-Moderator

___ Yes ___ No _____, Clerk

___ Yes ___ No _____, Treasurer

___ Yes ___ No _____, Member

___ Yes ___ No _____, Member

___ Yes ___ No _____, Member

___ Yes ___ No _____, Member

___ Yes ___ No _____, Pastor

COMMENTS ON THIS APPLICATION

Considerations for Boards when Endorsing to Enter In-Care Status

Thank you for considering applicants to enter In-Care status with MCC! Without your nurture, feedback and guidance, our process for training clergy would be seriously compromised. You are an important piece in successful preparation for our future.

After reviewing the application and conducting a discussion with the Pastor, the Board enters into conversation with the applicant. We encourage you to ask sufficient questions in the interview to determine the following:

That the applicant is able to articulate his/her call to ministry – specifically MCC ministry;

That the applicant's purposes in undertaking preparation for ministry are appropriate and wide enough in scope to seek ordination into denominational ministry; and

That the applicant's vision of him/herself in ministry is in service to the Church and to the ministry of MCC.

If the applicant seeks funding assistance in addition to endorsement, can the applicant explain adequately both the need for assistance and the purposes and accountability attached to it?

In your judgment and prayerful consideration, to what extent is this person fit, ready, able, prepared, and equipped for this endeavor? Remember that you are not making a determination about ordination; rather, you are offering your assessment of the applicant's readiness to BEGIN a process.

You may want to consider:

- Does the request for funding fall within the stated vision, mission, and core values of the church?
- Does the request meet the requirements of the church's bylaws?
- Is the request/purpose supported by the Pastor?
- Is the request budgeted?
- To what extent does the Board understand its participation and/or investment in this process as a contribution to the larger goal of equipping leadership for the mission and ministry of MCC?
- Will the Board endorse the applicant yet provide no financial support?
- Does the Board have any established limits on how much financial support it can provide for applicants?
- If the Board does not endorse the candidate, how will you explain to the applicant 1) the process, 2) the decision, and 3) what, if anything could be done to change the decision?

- Is the Board/congregation prepared to be consistent with regard to its endorsements and financial support of applicants?
- Will the Board seek input from the larger congregation, and, if so, how?

Please take time to discuss the Application among yourselves and Pastor BOTH PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING the conversation with the Applicant. Have a plan to guide your conversation. Begin and end with prayer with the Applicant and offer your support in ways in which you can follow-through.

**REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH THE
Pastor/Board
to Consider Endorsement
to Enter In-Care Status/financial support**

Applicant's Name _____ Date _____

Local Church _____

Pastor _____

I wish to covenant with this church in order to begin the next step in my process of discerning a call to ordained ministry in MCC. The process of seeking "In-Care" status begins with establishing a covenant between myself, the local church, and MCC and may or may not ultimately lead to ordained ministry.

I am requesting an interview with the Pastor and, if appropriate, a follow up interview with the Board of Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my call to ministry and to seek your support in taking these next steps in preparation.

As a part of the steps of this covenant relationship in the discernment process I agree to:

- Establish a relationship of accountability to the Pastor
- Abide by the MCC requirements for the discernment process in accordance with the Manual for Professional Ordained Ministry in MCC

As a part of the steps of this covenant relationship in the discernment process, I request that the church agrees to:

- Assist in the discernment process
- Provide feedback to me and to MCC

If I, the Pastor and/or the BOD determine that now is not the time to proceed in this phase of the discernment process, we have the option to revisit the questions and take action at a later time.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Pastor (indicating receipt of request)

PASTORAL ENDORSEMENT FOR REVM RETREAT

Applicant's Name _____ Date _____

Pastor's Name _____

Church _____

ENDORSEMENT

I endorse this candidate for participation in the REVM Retreat (please attach a separate letter of recommendation for the candidate's REVM file)

I endorse this candidate, with qualifications

Explanation of qualifications:

I do not endorse this candidate at this time, but may reconsider at a later date.

I do not endorse this candidate for participation in the REVM Retreat

COMMENTS

Readiness to Enter Vocational Ministry

REVM

APPLICATION FORM

(due with supporting documents no later than
four weeks prior to start of REVM Retreat)

Name _____

Church _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ Alternate Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Check all that are enclosed with this application:

___ Transcripts for all university/seminary education

___ For transfer clergy, documentation of ordination/credentials in former denomination,
and letter of good standing (see form at the end of this application)

___ Letter of recommendation from Pastor or Elder

___ A detailed statement of your call to ministry, specifically MCC ministry

___ A current curriculum vitae/resume which includes employment and education history

___ All Endorsement Forms from this In-Care Packet

Please tell us your plans for completing the psychological testing requirements.

Will your church pay half of your testing costs? _____

Psychological test results are to be released to Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Associate Director of Formation and Leadership Development, 3145 Readsborough Court, Fairfax, VA 22031 and must be on file *prior* to acceptance to attend REVM.

Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____

By my signature, I authorize Metropolitan Community Church to perform a criminal background check.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please send this registration and attachments/supporting documents and forms to:

*Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos
Office of Formation and Leadership Development
3145 Readsborough Court
Fairfax, VA 22031*

Address all inquiries to RevKharmaAmos@mccchurch.net

Certification of Former Credentials

For Transfer Clergy Only

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Denomination Information

Name of Denomination: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Name of Denominational Official: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Certification of Former Credentials

Applicant was Ordained on: _____ (date)

Applicant was Licensed on: _____ (date)

Dates of Service. From _____ To _____

Date of Resignation (if applicable): _____

Additional Remarks (please continue on back or attach additional sheet(s) if necessary.)
