



MCC[®]
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

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МЕТРОПОЛИТАН

CLERGY MANUAL ADDENDUM

Africa Protocol 2017

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

Introduction

The Africa Protocol for MCC Ordination applies to:

- Residents of Africa who are preparing for ordination by MCC into vocational ministry; and
- Residents of Africa who are ordained by another denomination and seeking to transfer their credentials to MCC.

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 Africa 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 Africa.

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

Readiness for Entering Vocational Ministry (REVM)

To apply for a REVM, individuals should:

- Have been an active Christian in a local church or Christian organization; and
- Submit the following:
 - A letter of endorsement from an MCC clergy person, Network Leader, or the Director of the Office of Formation and Leadership Development
 - A letter of endorsement from a local church Board where applicable.
 - 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

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

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.
- Attendance at REVM. A potential ordination candidate may participate in either a virtual or face-to-face REVM. Upon acceptance into the MCC ordination process, the participant is considered to be In-Care with MCC and becomes part of the African In-Care Cohort.
- Attendance at MCC Conferences, Meetings, and Events. We encourage all students in Africa to attend General Conference, Network Gatherings, trainings, events, and meetings held by MCC.
- 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) in an approved setting under the supervision of an approved supervisor appointed by the Office of Formation and Leadership Development. Length and location of the internship will vary given the candidate's previous experience in MCC and geographical location. This supervised ministry experience must

be pre-approved by the Office of Formation and Leadership Development.

Education

University degree with a diploma or degree level training in theology and ministry are the minimum requirements for educational preparation for vocational ministry in Africa. Equivalency may be granted for previous professional ministry experience or ordination in another tradition.

MCC-specific courses are also required, including:

- Sexuality Studies
- Paper on the history of the LGBT movement in Africa
- 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
- 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.