

**ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR M. DIV. EQUIVALENCY**  
**Committee on Ministry, Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ**  
**Acting as an Association**  
**Adopted April 19, 2007**

**Introduction:** This document is intended as an aid to In-Care advisors and the Preparation and Ordination Subcommittee in evaluating masters level degrees in religion, theology, spirituality, or with similar nomenclature taken by a person seeking In-Care standing and desiring to move toward ordination or other authorized ministries in the United Church of Christ. While the list is framed as course requirements, it is intended that these be viewed as essential subject matter areas of study or practice.

**Biblical interpretation:**

- Introductory courses in Older Testament and New Testament interpretation
- One additional biblical elective

**Historical studies:**

- Courses in church history or historical theology
- Course/s in which the history of religion in America is studied in depth

**Theology**

- Course or sequence in Constructive Theology or
- Course or sequence in Systematic Theology

**Interpretation of culture:**

- Course/s that teach the tools of interpreting diverse cultures for the sake of understanding the role of culture in religious life

**Ethics:**

- A course on the history of theological and philosophical ethics and/or
- Courses on specific ethical issues

**Formation:**

- Course/s on spiritual formation and formation for ministry
- Course/s where the faith identity of the United Church of Christ is addressed

**Practice of Ministry Leadership:**

- Course/s on preaching and worship
- Course on pastoral care and/or one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education
- Course on educational ministry
- Course on pastoral leadership and administration
- Courses or workshops on stewardship and evangelism
- Course or workshop on community organizing and working for social justice
- Supervised field education or contextual placements in a local church and other settings of professional ministry leadership