

Volunteer Opportunities Form 2022

There are many opportunities within the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ to serve the wider church. Please use this form to indicate how you might be interested in participating. You may respond by checking areas where you have interest in serving. A full term is for two (2) years and persons may be elected to no more than three (3) consecutive full terms.

Name _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Congregation/Location _____

Occupation _____ Retired _____

Optional Demographic Information

Gender _____ Race/Ethnicity _____

I would like to be considered for service:

_____ In the Minnesota Conference

_____ As a delegate to General Synod

_____ In the national setting of the UCC

Please check the following categories that apply to you:

_____ Under 20

_____ Under 30

_____ 31-45

_____ 46-60

_____ 61+

_____ Clergy

_____ Lay

Preferred Pronouns: _____

Are there specific areas that interest you? Please check all that apply:

_____ Board of Directors *

_____ Finance Committee*

_____ Development Committee*

_____ Personnel Committee *

_____ Committee on Ministry*

_____ Nominating Work Group*

_____ Annual Meeting Planning*

*Elected by Annual Meeting

_____ Disaster Ministries**

_____ Ecumenical Appointments**

_____ CUE(Chicago/United/Eden)Seminaries**

_____ Faith Formation for Children & Youth**

_____ Immigration Team**

_____ Creation Justice Team**

_____ Open and Affirming**

**Appointed by Board of Directors

Is there someone you know who might be interested in serving the wider church?

Name _____ Church _____

Contact info _____

Area(s) of interest _____

General Synod Delegates: The Minnesota Conference chooses 19 delegates and 19 alternate delegates for each General Synod from among its authorized ministers and members of its Local Churches. Lay persons must comprise at least fifty percent of the delegates and the delegation must reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The delegation must be representative of people of diverse races, ethnicities, genders, gender expressions and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of each delegation shall be under 30 years of age, and where possible, be represented equally by high school age youth and young adults).

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors has the usual powers and duties of the Board of Directors of a corporation organized under the non-profit corporation law of the State of Minnesota. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Conference between Annual Meetings.

Finance Committee: This committee promotes and preserves the financial integrity of the Conference. Its duties include: recommending financial policies to the Board of Directors, preparing and monitoring the Conference budget, making and monitoring investments, monitoring risk and obtaining insurance and managing funds and property.

Development Committee: This committee promotes the financial development of the Conference (e.g. OCWM, Annual Fund, PPC giving, etc.) by developing fundraising strategies and assisting staff with such tasks as event organizing and written/verbal thanks you's to churches and donors.

Personnel Committee: This committee is responsible for human resource matters through recommending personnel policies to the Board of Directors, assisting in development of position descriptions, recommending staff compensation to the Finance Committee, and ensuring that performance reviews are conducted.

Committee on Ministry: This committee recommends to the Conference standing for churches, ordains and commissions ministers, and receives ministers of other denominations by Privilege of Call. It seeks to maintain relationships with persons authorized for ministry and Local Churches holding standing in the Conference.

Nominating Work Group: This group makes nominations for positions to be elected by the Annual Meeting and nominations for positions to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Annual Meeting Planning Work Group: The duties of this group include overseeing all matters related to planning all Annual Meetings

CUE Seminaries Team: This team supports the relationship of the MN Conference with Chicago Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary, and Eden Theological Seminary and the other mid-America Conferences by promoting theological education and by supporting fundraising efforts in support of the annual operating budgets of the seminaries through CUE. This team meets by telephone or video conference only 2 – 3 times per year.

Disaster Ministries: Providing disaster preparedness information to congregations and mobilizing disaster response as needed in the Conference.

Ecumenical Appointments: The MN Conference is committed to relating to and working with other churches and faiths, and values ecumenical expressions of ministry. In our covenant to work together and relate to other churches, ecumenical relationships are vital. Participation with other denominations in councils and conferences, activities and agencies is part of our life as "United and Uniting" Christians. Examples would be Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Council of Churches, United Theological Seminary.

Faith Formation: This team provides leadership to the development and implementation of faith formation programming with children and youth.

Immigration Team: This Team educates congregations in the Conference about immigration policies, offering a Biblical and theological lens through which to understand the issue and providing opportunities for congregations to engage in effective witness on behalf of our immigrant brothers and sisters.

Creation Justice Team: This Team seeks to provide a Biblical understanding of prophetic ministry and to equip congregations in the Conference with the knowledge and skills necessary to shape social policies in keeping with God's vision of a just and loving society. The Team educates Conference churches on matters of peace and justice, encourages advocacy, serves as a resource to churches and other groups in the Conference, promotes the Justice and Witness offering and receives and responds to requests for grants or loans from this offering.

Open and Affirming Team: This Team provides leadership being an Open and Affirming (ONA) Conference. The Team nourishes and provides resources to existing ONA churches in the Conference and seeks to increase the number of local churches of the Conference who wish to become ONA. In covenant with the MN Chapter of the UCC Open & Affirming Coalition, the team advocates for justice for LGBTQ+ persons in religious and secular arenas.