Appendix 2 - The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers in the United Church of Christ**[[1]](#footnote-1)**

EXHIBITING A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION AND ONGOING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

* Loving God, following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit; living a life of

discipleship.

* Praying actively and nurturing spiritual practices.
* Being called to ordained ministry by God and the Church.
* Continuing discernment of one’s call in community.
* Understanding the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the elements of Christian

worship to nurture faith.

* Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal

stewardship.

NURTURING UCC IDENTITY

* Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
* Communicating passion for the oneness of the Body of Christ (John 17:21).
* Holding active membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.
* Participating in the various settings of the United Church of Christ, including Local

Churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod, and global ministries.

* Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity, and theology.
* Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ: continuing

testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives.

BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS

* Empowering the Church to be faithful to God’s call, reflective of Christ’s mission, and

open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.

* Strategically creating the future of God’s Church.
* Witnessing in the public square to God’s redeeming power.
* Performing necessary and appropriate administrative tasks.
* Working collaboratively with intercultural awareness and sensitivity.
* Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning.

ENGAGING SACRED STORIES AND TRADITIONS

* Exhibiting knowledge, understanding, and continuing study of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.
* Maturing in effective proclamation and preaching.
* Understanding the history of the Christian Church, from biblical times forward.
* Bringing life to sacred stories and traditions in worship, proclamation, and witness.
* Leading faith formation effectively across generations.
* Holding the Holy with integrity especially as represented in the Sacraments.

CARING FOR ALL CREATION

* Nurturing care and compassion for God’s creation.
* Maintaining a basic understanding of mental health and wellness.
* Practicing self-care and life balance.
* Providing hope and healing to a hurting world.
* Attending to one’s own spiritual and pastoral care, including engagement in supervision

as appropriate.

* Stewarding the resources of the Church.

PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS

* Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one’s sense of ministerial

identity.

* Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching, and ecclesial and community

leadership.

* Articulating a theology and practice of ministry consistent with the UCC Manual on

Ministry.

* Demonstrating an appreciation for and participation in the ecumenical and interfaith

partnerships of the UCC.

* Experiencing and appreciating a variety of theological perspectives.
* Embodying the UCC Ministerial Code.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE AND MERCY

* Drawing on the ministry of Jesus Christ to confront injustice and oppression.
* Practicing the radical hospitality of God.
* Identifying and working to overcome explicit and implicit bias in the life of the Church.
* Understanding community context and navigating change with a community.
* Engaging in mission and outreach.
* Building relationships of mutual trust and interdependence.

STRENGTHENING INTER- AND INTRA- PERSONAL ASSETS

* Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community, and

life experiences.

* Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the Church.
* Exhibiting strong moral character and personal integrity.
* Respecting the dignity of all God’s people.
* Understanding and ministering to stages of human development across the life span.
* Demonstrating excellent communication skills.

1. Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team (MESA), *Manual on Ministry*, (Cleveland: United Church of Christ, 2018), 10-15. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)