



Steps for Assessment

Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

We ask all of our candidates interested in starting new churches to complete the following assessment exercises. These exercises are not intended to discern a person's call to ministry. Rather, these tools help us determine if one has the gifts and skills necessary for starting new churches in the SEC. You will work directly with Rev. Cameron Trimble, Minister of Evangelism and Church Development, as you complete each phase (ctrimble@secucc.org).

These exercises should be completed and submitted to the Conference office to the attention of Rev. Cameron Trimble. **At the end of each phase, we will set up a meeting between you and the New Church Development Advisory Team**, allowing us the privilege of getting to know you and you getting to know us. We hope that this process is affirming and helpful to you as you discern God's call.

Phase One

1. Written Interview – This consists of a 30 question worksheet which asks you to comment on your personal history and experience in ministry. We ask that you write at least a paragraph for each answer, giving as complete as an accounting as possible.
2. National UCC Planter Assessment, \$100.00 (contact National Evangelism office for information)
3. DISC Profile, \$22.00 (www.pdiprofile.com)
4. VHS tape or DVD of a sermon delivered in the past 5 years
5. If currently serving a church, a copy of the budget for the past 5 years

Phase Two

6. UCC Profile and Background Check
7. Credit Check
8. Meeting with SEC Association Church and Ministry Committee for introduction
9. Ministry Plan – Planting a church takes a significant amount of planning and preparation. We want to see that you are preparing for this undertaking with thoughtful reflection on practical issues that you might face. In a similar format to a business model, we are looking for:
 - A compelling statement of vision and mission,
 - Location and demographic research (which can be obtained through the Conference Office as well as online resources),
 - General summation of your launch team,
 - i. If you are moving to the SEC and do not have specific people committed to your launch team, simply provide a description of the types of people you would be looking for and what role you hope they would play (i.e. local business men and women, a real estate agent, a banker, a member of the school board, etc.)
 - A biographical statement about the pastor and leadership team,
 - A detailed, “best-guess” time line of development and implementation,
 - Your church-related goals for 2, 3 and 5 years from the date of the proposal with attention to the “essentials” that we use to determine the viability of the church start regarding its growth or termination.
 - A detailed, narrative budget of years 1,3 and 5
10. In process of fulfilling the requirements for ministerial standing if not ordained
 - UCC History and Polity Course
 - Ordination Paper
 - At least two meetings with the Church and Ministry committees

