

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY PROJECT

\*Because our still speaking God continually calls us to "Do the word, not just speak the word...";

\*And because the concept of Social Justice has been intricately interwoven into the fabric and identifying image of the United Church of Christ from its beginning, as well as reflected in the merging denominations from which it was formed;

The Church and Ministry Committee of the Southern Association requires that a candidate for ordination complete a Social Justice Ministry project (hereafter referred to as "the Project.") after two years of Seminary or following Seminary graduation and prior to the time of the final Member In Discernment renewal interview.

Because the face of Social Justice is ever fluid, this Project also provides the Member in Discernment (hereafter referred to as "the Candidate,") with an opportunity to update what the term "Social Justice Ministry" means at this time, in your ministry context.

\*The specific Project is to come from the perspective and conviction of the Candidate, in conference with an assigned member of Section A, and designated Member in Discernment Advisor. The final design is to be submitted and approved by Section A prior to initiation of the Project.

\* Guidelines:

1. The Project may take place within the context of the Candidate's present vocational environment or in a tangential /external setting.
2. While the design of the Project will likely draw from the Candidate's background and experience, it is to be a new experience rather than a submission of, or rewrite of, a previous work.
3. While the inclusion of specially designed course work is acceptable within the design, an academic course could not be used to solely fulfill the Project requirements.
4. The Project is to be designed whereby the Candidate directly assists individuals within a Social Justice setting and specifically addresses some of the underlying issues affecting such individuals, via a program, educational format or encounter.
5. One focus of the Project is for the Candidate to incorporate and apply appropriate aspects of one's academic experience to a practical everyday Social Justice issue evident in the community, about which you feel strongly.

6. The length of the Project is to be long enough to make a meaningful impact upon the individuals involved, while short enough to be manageable within the limitations of the Candidate's vocational and personal responsibilities. It is estimated that the project should take approximately 40 hours, including preparation hours and processing. At least 20 hours needs to be involved in direct people-to-people ministry.
7. The Project should be designed to also further the development of the Candidate's ministry skills in appropriate and identifiable ways.

### **Sequence of steps to complete the project:**

1. **Form A** – To be completed by the Candidate, in conference with an assigned member of Section A and the Member in Discernment advisor, then presented to Section A for approval. Depending on the design of the project, an On-Site Advisor may also be assigned to work with the Candidate through its completion.
2. Project completion report - Upon completion of the Social Justice Ministry Project, the Candidate will prepare a two/three page reflection paper assessing the experience. The paper shall include
  - a. Detailed description of the fulfillment of the Project's purpose(s)
  - b. Degree intended goals were accomplished, with examples drawn from the Project
  - c. Amount of time spent on Project
  - d. Comparison of initial learning expectations, to what was actually learned by the Candidate.
  - e. Description of the individuals who benefited from the Project and in what ways
3. **Form B** – The On-Site Advisor (or if none, the Member in Discernment Advisor) completes Form B, after evaluating the Candidate's original Form A and the reflection paper.
4. The Member in Discernment Advisor transmits all documentation to Section A. An interview regarding the Social Justice Ministry Project may be scheduled for the Candidate. The Member in Discernment Advisor may also participate in the interview. Section A will decide if the completed project meets the outlined criteria.
5. Form A, Form B and the approved Project Completion Report are sent to the Southern Association office and placed in the Candidate's file.

**FORM A**  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY PROJECT**

Member In Discernment name:

Phone:

Address:

E-Mail:

1. Description/ Design of Social Justice Ministry Project:

2. Location(s):

3. Length of time project will require:

4. Purpose(s) of the project:

Specific Goals to be accomplished:

5. Candidate's amount of time committed to the Project:

6. What do you expect to learn? Ministry skills to be developed?

7. Who and how will individuals be helped during this project?

**I agree to this project as stated above:**

Member In Discernment:

Date:

Discernment Advisor:

Date:

On-Site Advisor (Optional):

Date:

Section A Representative:

Date:

**FORM B – ON-SITE/DISCERNMENT ADVISOR EVALUATION  
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY PROJECT**

Member In Discernment name:

On-Site / Discernment Advisor:

Phone:

Address:

E-Mail:

1. I agreed with the Candidate's choice and design of his/her Social Justice Ministry Project in advance of the experience...

Yes     No

2. Was the project effective? Explain:

3. Evaluate the degree to which the Candidate's purpose(s) was/were fulfilled in this project.

4. To what degree were the Candidate's stated goals accomplished and why?

5. What was the actual amount of time spent by the Candidate on the project?

6. From your observations, describe specific aspects learned by the Candidate while completing this project.

7. From your perception, who and in what ways were individuals helped by the Candidate through this project?

8. After evaluating the Candidate's reflection paper describing this experience, I (agree) (disagree) because:

9. The Candidate (did) (did not) benefit from this experience because:

From my perspective, the Candidate (did) (did not) fulfill the requirements for the Social Justice Ministry Project.

10. Other comments:

On-site Advisor:

Date:

Discernment Advisor:

Date:

\* \* \* \* \*

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT

I have read the advisor's evaluation and I (agree) (disagree) because

Name:

Date:

\* \* \* \* \*

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SECTION A REPRESENTATIVE

(APPROVED) (DISAPPROVED)

Date:

Signed:

Received by Southern Association Registrar for filing

Date: