

The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ

EXHIBITING A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION AND ONGOING SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

- ▶ 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 authorized ministry by God and the Church.
- ▲ Continuing discernment of one's call in community.
- ▶ Living in relationships of covenantal accountability with God and the church.
- ▼ Understanding the power of the Holy Spirit working through silence, language, art, music, ritual and symbols across generations and contexts.
- ◀ Knowing the elements and purpose of Christian worship in nurturing a life of faith.
- ▲ Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual nurture and development.

NURTURING UCC IDENTITY

- ▶ Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
- ▼ Communicating passion for the oneness of the body of Christ reflected in Scripture (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 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.
- ▲ Demonstrating an appreciation for and participation in the ecumenical and interfaith partnerships of the United Church of Christ.

BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- ◀ Empowering the Church 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 effectively with intercultural awareness and sensitivity.
- ▶ Understanding community context and navigating change with a community.
- ▲ 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.
- ▼ Nurturing effective proclamation and preaching.
- ◀ Understanding the history of the Christian church, from biblical times forward.
- ▲ Bringing life to the 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 OTHERS

- ▼ Nurturing care and compassion for all God's creation.
- ◀ Maintaining a basic understanding of mental health and wellness.
- ▲ Understanding and ministering to stages of human development across the life span.
- ▶ Providing hope and healing to a hurting world.
- ▼ Attending to one's own spiritual and pastoral care and engagement in supervision, as appropriate.

PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS

- ◀ Practicing theological reflection and engagement as part of one's sense of ministerial identity.
- ▲ Experiencing and appreciating a variety of theological perspectives.
- ▶ Integrating theological reflection in teaching, preaching, and ecclesial and community leadership.
- ▼ Articulating a theology of ministry consistent with one's ministerial practices.

ENCOUNTERING THE OTHER WITH 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 implicit bias in all ministry settings and in the life of the church.
- ▼ Engaging in mission and outreach.
- ◀ Embodying the United Church of Christ Ministerial Code of Ethics.

STRENGTHENING INTER- AND INTRA- PERSONAL ASSETS

- ▲ Developing and maintaining a healthy sense of self as shaped by God, community, and life experiences.
- ▶ Respecting the dignity of all God's people.
- ▼ Exhibiting strong moral character and personal integrity.
- ◀ Demonstrating excellent communication skills.
- ▲ Practicing self-care and life balance.