

Covenant Partnership
A program of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of
North Carolina Commission on Ministry (NCCOM)

Ministry can be a very lonely and isolating calling. Many times persons entering ministry underestimate the weight of this isolation. In an effort to provide more support and collegiality, the North Carolina Commission on Ministry has created the Covenant Partnership program to provide mentors to persons engaged in the field of congregational ministry. In this context, partnership is defined as a friendly, formal arrangement between an individual under care with the NCCOM and a covenant mentor approved and assigned by the NCCOM to work together to fulfill the agreement specified below. The intent of this arrangement is not to supplant any existing clergy relationships that the ministerial candidate might have. It is only to enhance and build new relationships which might aid in the successful transition of candidates into the office of ministry. The program is intended for those persons serving in a congregational setting, however, it is not limited to such persons.

Covenant Mentors agree to:

- serve as a Covenant Mentor for a candidate for a minimum of two years with an option to renew the covenant partnership annually.
- talk via telephone with the Covenant Mentor Partner at least once a month
- personally visit the Covenant Mentor Partner's site of ministry once each year (some exceptions will be made for out of state candidates)
- be in prayer for the Covenant Mentor Partner
- help monitor the self-care and spiritual nurture of the Covenant Mentor Partner
- encourage the Covenant Mentor Partner regarding goals, mission and calling
- direct the Covenant Mentor Partner to resources he or she might need in their ministry
- help the Covenant Mentor Partner navigate the ordination/licensing process (with the assistance of the COM)
- keep confidential any communication that the Covenant Mentor Partner might offer
- provide reporting to the North Carolina Commission on Ministry documenting the monthly conversations

Covenant Mentor Partners agree to:

- be open and receptive to conversation with the Covenant Mentor
- discuss any problems or challenges that the Covenant Mentor Partner might be facing
- be in prayer for the Covenant Mentor
- provide feedback to the Commission on Ministry as to how the Covenant Partnership is supporting his or her ministry

Covenant Mentors will be selected, approved, assigned and/or reassigned by the Commission on Ministry. Covenant Mentor Partners have to come under the care of the Commission on Ministry and then request a Covenant Partnership before they are assigned. Every effort will be made to partner Mentors and Mentor Partners in the closest geographic proximity possible.