MARKS OF FAITHFUL AND EFFECTIVE AUTHORIZED MINISTERS IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHIBITING A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION AND ONGOING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE
  o Loving God, following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit; living a life of discipleship.
  o Praying actively and nurturing spiritual practices.
  o Being called to ordained ministry by God and the Church.
  o Continuing discernment of one’s call in community.
  o Understanding the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the elements of Christian worship to nurture faith.
  o Exhibiting a commitment to lifelong spiritual development and faithful personal stewardship.

NURTURING UCC IDENTITY
  o Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church.
  o Communicating passion for the oneness of the Body of Christ (John 17:21).
  o Holding active membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.
  o Participating in the various settings of the United Church of Christ, including Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod, and global ministries.
  o Knowing and appreciating UCC history, polity, and theology.
  o Exhibiting a commitment to the core values of the United Church of Christ: continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives.

BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS
  o Empowering the Church to be faithful to God’s call, reflective of Christ’s mission, and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit.
  o Strategically creating the future of God’s Church.
  o Witnessing in the public square to God’s redeeming power.
  o Performing necessary and appropriate administrative tasks.
  o Working collaboratively with intercultural awareness and sensitivity.
  o Encouraging leadership development of self and others through continuing education and lifelong learning.

ENGAGING SACRED STORIES AND TRADITIONS
  o Maturing in effective proclamation and preaching.
  o Understanding the history of the Christian Church, from biblical times forward.
  o Bringing life to sacred stories and traditions in worship, proclamation, and witness.
  o Leading faith formation effectively across generations.
  o 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.