

CHURCH & MINISTRY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

Southern California Nevada Conference, Southern Association

Authorized Minister: A person who has been granted standing in an Association of the UCC.

- Member in Discernment (MID)
- Lay Ministerial Standing
- Ordained Ministerial Standing
- Leave of Absence
- Exempt

Dual Standing: Dual Standing may be granted to an ordained minister from another denomination who currently has a call in a UCC ministerial setting. The minister maintains standing in the other denomination. Dual Standing is temporary and is not transferrable. When the call ends, Dual Standing also ends.

LCDC (Local Church Discernment Committee): The LCDC is the locus of most of the work of discernment with an MID. The LCDC is gathered by the pastor of the church, on behalf of the potential MID. The LCDC meets with the person throughout their theological formation process and the work with the COM. The report regularly to the COM.

MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization): The ministry in the national UCC setting that oversees authorization of ministers and ministry setting. They put out an excellent monthly newsletter, **COMma**, for Committees on Ministry.

MoM: “Manual on Ministry.” The “how to” book for authorization and oversight of ministries in the UCC.

MID: Member in Discernment (formerly *Student in Care*) “in process” with the committee, discerning a call and preparing for authorized ministry in the UCC.

Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing: All UCC and DOC ordained ministers are automatically Ordained Ministerial Partners. *OMPS ends when the call ends.* Work in a UCC setting requires:

- Ordained Ministerial Partnership Standing (OMPS),
- proof of good standing with the DOC,
- UCC history & polity class,
- a valid call in the Association

Privilege of Call: An ordained minister from another denomination seeks standing in the UCC. Once the Privilege of Call process is complete and the minister has a call in the UCC, standing in the former denomination is relinquished. +An Ecclesiastical Council is generally required.

Three- and Four-Way Covenants: A document that acknowledges the setting of a call to authorized ministry in an Association.

1. The Minister
2. The Association
3. The Local Church (where employed and/or holds membership)
4. The Calling Body (if other than local church)