

Statement of Consent

"The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required." United Church of Christ Constitution, Article VI, paragraph 21.

Use of the UCC Ministerial Profile signifies that an individual has an Association's ecclesiastical authorization to seek a call as a minister in and on behalf of the church; has completed background check screening and fitness verification; has attested to certain statements in a document of self-disclosure; and has gained three references which speak to her/his practice of ministry. The Profile is a tool of testament and transparency, meant to demonstrate covenants of supportive cooperation and appropriate sharing of information among national offices, Conference and/or Association personnel, calling bodies, and the minister, as expressed in paragraph 25 of Article VI of the United Church of Christ Constitution.

It is essential that information contained within this document be sensitively and responsibly reviewed and interpreted. All those seeing the document have the responsibility to maintain or dispose of its contents confidentially.

Any practice by calling bodies of routinely rejecting profiles on a perfunctory basis without a complete and individualized assessment, including a thoughtful review of commentary offered by the candidate, is strongly discouraged. In particular, criminal history information, including the conduct underlying that history, should be evaluated in terms of the nature and gravity of the offense or conduct, the time that has passed since the offense, conduct, and/or sentence, and the nature of the position sought by a candidate, so as to foster call and hiring decisions that are based on an individualized assessment that is job/ministry related and consistent with ministry/business necessity.

Relationships between calling bodies, authorized ministers, and those holding ministerial standing and fitness oversight rely upon practices of discernment and dialogue. Because such relationships require integrity and an honest exchange of relevant information, for the health and mission of the church, this minister pledges the following:

1. I attest that the information contained in the UCC Ministerial Profile is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for a calling body's declined consideration for, or termination of, a ministry position. I acknowledge that it is my duty in a timely manner to amend the responses and information I have provided if I come to know that a response or information was incorrect when given or if the response or information, though accurate when given is no longer accurate.

2. I understand that I may designate certain Conference and/or Association staff and other persons and entities, to receive and circulate my UCC Ministerial Profile. I authorize all such persons and entities, and/or their agents, to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in my UCC Ministerial Profile. I also authorize all persons, entities, former employers, committees on ministry and their agents, courts, law enforcement and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me and to supply verification of the information provided in my UCC Ministerial Profile. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to those who execute the search process, such as members of a calling body or judicatory staff persons. To encourage such persons to speak openly and responsibly, I hereby release them from all liability arising from their responses and comments made in good faith and without malice.

Signature

[On File](#)

Name

Serene M. Davis

Timestamp

Monday, March 17, 2014 1:10 PM



Contact Information

Email Address

rhackenberg@lancasterseminary.edu

Full Name

Serene Monique Davis

Preferred Name

Serene

I Prefer To Be Contacted By

Email Address

Addresses

123 Main Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
United States

Type

Business

Primary

Mailing

Phone Numbers

Number	Extension	Type	Primary
987-654-3210		Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ecclesiastical Authorization for Ministry

I am a member of Mount Zion United Church of Christ Church in Cleveland , None United States.

I am an Ordained Minister with full standing in the United Church of Christ. My current standing is held in the no Conference.

Verification

- The minister's standing is current and the candidate is deemed fit for ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ.**
- A current criminal background check is attached at this time.**
- To the best of my knowledge, current employment information is accurate.**
To the best of my knowledge, the background disclosure statement is accurate.



 My signature below attests to the above four items.

Signature

[On File](#)

Name

MESA Validator

Timestamp

Monday, March 17, 2014 1:40 PM

Title

MESA Validator

Conference

MESA

Association

ProfilesOffice

Ministry Essays

 All essay questions reference [The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ](#).

 The United Church of Christ recognizes *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers* in the formation of ministers, in the practice of active ministry, and throughout life. For the purposes of completing a denominational Profile, ministers are asked to spend some time with the *Marks*.

My sense of being called by God and the church to authorized ministry (from "Spiritual Foundation for Ministry" section of *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ*).

My sense of call was fostered at an early age by my home church, an American Baptist congregation in San Francisco, California, which encouraged the participation of all members in the work of ministry. As a young adult, I was blessed with opportunities to teach and preach in the church; these invitations and affirmations from the congregation, in addition to the mentorship of my pastor, convinced me of God's call to commit my life to the faithful service of the Living Word and the Body of Christ. Thus called and committed, but uncertain of my precise professional direction in ministry, I continued my vocational discernment through the Master of Divinity program at Andover Newton Theological School. My studies in practical theology and my internship years with Eighth Congregational UCC revealed my passion for congregational life and leadership as lived expressions of Christ. Now with almost thirty years of pastoral experience, it is still the ongoing transformation of the Body of Christ that energizes my work and renews my sense of call.

My concept of covenant and how it informs the nature, purpose, and polity of the United Church of Christ (from "UCC Identity for Ministry" section of *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ*).

Because God has aligned God's well-being to humanity (Exodus 6:7, "I will take you as my people, and I will be your

God"), we commit ourselves to one another in imitation of God's covenantal commitment to humanity. Bound to one another by covenant -- like oxen bound by a wooden yoke or children bound together for a three-legged race -- we strive to live in such a way that the entire world is blessed by the knowledge of the love of God. The United Church of Christ, which I joined during my undergraduate years, has established covenantal relationships between ministers and churches, Conferences and Associations and national offices, deeming us equal and necessary partners in the work of loving God and all neighbors. Authorized ministers in the United Church of Christ are joyfully burdened with the responsibility of creating and fostering partnerships within their ministry settings, as well as in and on behalf of the wider church.

I am passionate about

I am passionate about community as a living expression of Christ. While the Church has its share of flaws and skeptics (among them, institutionally-wary Gen-Xers and a rising trend in Spiritual-but-not-Religious aficionados), I believe that we are called to practice the teachings of Christ within and extending out from covenantal communities, rather than striving to emit "This Little Light of Mine" entirely on our own as individuals. Thus from Council meetings to church bylaws, Sunday worship to Saturday breakfast group, in all that we do as a faith community, we aim to embody the fullness of Christ's love and grace.

Reflect on one mark from the "Personal and Professional Formation for Ministry" section of *The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at the United Church of Christ* (Please state which Mark that you will be reflecting on).

Section 3, Mark 10: "The ability to take initiative in leadership, and to frame and test a vision in community." In my experience of pastoral ministry, the discipline of leadership is a daily and prayerful practice of holding a vision that I do not own. The vision of who/what a faith community has been, is and will be, belongs to the people of that faith community itself first of all, and it belongs to Jesus Christ most of all. As the pastor, I lead the community in naming its vision, telling its stories and dreams, and living into Christ's ever-renewing call, always mindful that my leadership does not make the vision "mine"; rather, it is my privilege to catch sight of the vision in cooperation with the congregation and by the inspiration of Christ.

Educational Formation for Ministry

 **In the following section I include a record of my Formal Education, any Regional Education Training Programs, or other formative educational experiences I have completed, as well as Continuing Education.**

Formal Education

Institution / Program
 San Francisco City High School

City
 San Francisco

Region
 None

Country
 United States

Start Date of Attendance
 1976

End Date of Attendance
 1980

Degree / Certification Earned
 High School Diploma

.....



Institution / Program
Ohio State University

City
Columbus

Region
None

Country
United States

Start Date of Attendance
1980

End Date of Attendance
1984

Degree / Certification Earned
Bachelor of Arts in History

Institution / Program
Andover Newton Theological School

City
Newton Centre

Region
None

Country
United States

Start Date of Attendance
1984

End Date of Attendance
1987

Degree / Certification Earned
Master of Divinity

Institution / Program
Chicago Theological Seminary

City
Chicago

Region
None

Country
United States

Start Date of Attendance
1997

End Date of Attendance
2000

Degree / Certification Earned
Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Transformation

Regional Theological Educational Programs and Formative Educational Experiences

Professional Development

Continuing Education

Community and Wider Church Involvement

Led Annual Youth Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity (1991-1995); Organized Ecumenical Community Meal Program (2000-2005); Initiated Interfaith Pride Worship Service (2007-2013); Served on Association Committee on Ministry (2012-2013)

Awards, Honors, and Publications

"Alumni Excellence in Pastoral Ministry" Award from Andover Newton Theological School (2004); Blog called "Living as Church" (2008-2013); Book of poetry entitled "Step by Step" (Cleveland Publishing, 2011)

Vocational History

 Below find a full history of my Vocational experiences, including Key Accomplishments for up to 3 selected experiences. All ecclesiastical service is listed.

Location / Setting Eighth Congregational United Church of Christ	Start Date of Service 1985
City Newton	End Date of Service 1987
Region None	Title / Position Student Pastor
Country United States	Job Type Part-Time

Location / Setting Hilltop Congregational United Church of Christ	Start Date of Service 1988
City Waltham	End Date of Service 1995
Region None	Title / Position Associate Pastor for Youth and Families
Country United States	Job Type Full-Time

Location / Setting Lakeside United Church of Christ	Start Date of Service 1995
City Evanston	End Date of Service 2005
Region None	Title / Position Pastor
Country United States	Job Type Full-Time



Location / Setting

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Start Date of Service

2006

City

Shaker Heights

End Date of Service

2013

Region

None

Title / Position

Senior Pastor

Country

United States

Job Type

Full-Time

Key Accomplishments

Description

I'm proud of the vision work that is underway at Mt. Zion UCC, driven by the question "What does it mean to be the Body of Christ to our local community?" Responses thus far focus on hospitality: the congregation hosts an annual Interfaith Pride Worship Service, participates in an ecumenical clothing bank, and shares space with a Spanish-speaking congregation. In addition, Mt. Zion is learning to "vision" our faith in our budget; the Church Council recently committed funds to hire an ASL interpreter for worship and the congregation has increased its OCWM giving.

.....

Description

At Lakeside UCC in Illinois, the work of faith formation was key to the church's revitalization. The congregation and I examined its traditional faith formation goals before daring to dream in new ways. An intergenerational faith formation program was initiated, incorporating the study of scripture with the love of neighbor; the congregation transformed its belief in justice to a practice of justice (exemplified in its participation in the ecumenical community meal program).

.....

Description

Across my years in ministry, I am proud of my consistency in preaching and pastoral care. I believe firmly in the impact of excellent pastoral care to foster congregational vitality by demonstrating Christ's presence at bedsides and firesides, across communion tables and kitchen tables. I continue to invest time and energy in the development of my preaching through both informal and formal education, so that I can be the best vessel possible for God's word.

References

Email Address

rachel@faithandwater.com

Full Name

Tomas A. Rey

Email Date

November 25, 2013

Address.....



700 Prospect Ave
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
United States

Type
Business

Phone.....

Number	Extension	Type
216-736-3865		Business

Short Answers.....

This minister's areas of strength in the practice of ministry as I experience them are

There is no lack of depth to the wells of spiritual water that I know Serene to draw up from her years of practiced faith and trust.

Some areas of growth for this minister's practice of ministry in my experience of them are

Managing a staff is an area of growth for Serene -- or at least, she would be well-served to have administrative support.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this person in ministry

As a colleague of Serene in Cleveland, we worked together on ecumenical direct services, and our congregations' visioning processes also occurred at the same time. I am grateful for conversations and prayers shared.

Additional Comments

Serene clearly dedicates her time and energy to building up the people of the church, the Body of Christ.

Submit Date

November 25, 2013

Email Address

hackenbergr@ucc.org

Full Name

Rachel G. Hackenberg

Email Date

November 25, 2013

Address.....

700 Prospect Ave
Cleveland 44115
United States

Type
Business

Phone.....



Number **Extension** **Type**
216-736-2100 Business

Short Answers.....

This minister's areas of strength in the practice of ministry as I experience them are

I have experienced Pastor Davis' skills as a centered, collaborative, kind, and insightful minister. Her strengths are both personal and organizational: she beautifully conducted two funerals for my extended family, and she contributed prayerful ritual to trustee meetings for their discussions of budget. She has done and been all that I could ask for in a minister.

Some areas of growth for this minister's practice of ministry in my experience of them are

Pastor Davis appears to go in every direction equally and may risk burnout by continuing to do so.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this person in ministry

I keep copies of certain sermons and poems by Serene to read and share for inspiration.

Additional Comments

I am a member of the UCC national staff who is a parishioner at Mt. Zion United Church of Christ.

Submit Date

November 25, 2013

Email Address

rachel.hackenberg@alum.ptsem.edu

Full Name

Rosemarie A. Williams

Email Date

November 25, 2013

Address.....

18500 Lee Road
Shaker Heights 44122
United States

Type
Business

Phone.....

Number **Extension** **Type**
216-345-7890 Business

Short Answers.....

This minister's areas of strength in the practice of ministry as I experience them are

Serene is a fantastic congregational leader, a minister of the highest caliber, not only exemplary in preaching but



exemplary in accompanying a congregation as a true servant.

Some areas of growth for this minister's practice of ministry in my experience of them are

While focused appropriately on her pastoral ministry within a congregation, sometimes I wonder if Serene's writing and proclamation ministry could reach wider audiences through new initiatives.

Describe a significant experience you have had of this person in ministry

I knew Serene when we were both studying at Andover Newton; we stay in touch to provide mutual encouragement through the respective development of our ministries, and I worship in Serene's congregations whenever I have the opportunity. As student colleagues in graduate school, both motivated to initiate ecumenical and interfaith justice collaborations, I remember it was Serene who grounded our work in communion and patient dialogue.

Additional Comments

With no reservations whatsoever, I celebrate Serene's gifts and accomplishments in ministry.

Submit Date

November 25, 2013

Self-Appraisal

Some Areas of Strength in My Practice of Ministry

Perhaps most outstanding in my practice of ministry is my dedication to the work of congregational vitality (regardless of a church's numeric size, annual budget or community context) through the identification of gifts and passions already present in the faith community and an inclusive invitation for all to invest their creative gifts in the congregation's life.

Some Areas for Growth in My Practice of Ministry

I believe that a minister is never finished in her learning, through formal and continuing education opportunities, but most of all through maintaining a teachable spirit in leadership.

A Meaningful Experience I Have Had in Ministry

During my pastoral service at Mt. Zion, I have been moved and inspired by the inclusion of ASL interpretation in worship. The visual representation of language, the dance-like quality of ASL, not only calls my attention to the continued need for greater worship accessibility at Mt. Zion but also teaches me that language -- like community -- is at its best when we invite all of its dimensions into conversation together.

Additional Comments

In addition to the joy that I continue to find in pastoral ministry, I have been blessed by the joy of parenting two children, now adults. A rescue dog named Gustav keeps me active and helps me meet neighbors on our long walks each day.

Self-Disclosure

Ministers completing a United Church of Christ Ministerial Profile must make a conscientious assertion about their ethical performance and are given space for relevant commentary.

In your response to the "Vocational History" question in the profile, did you omit any ecclesiastical employment?

No



Have you ever been the subject of a fitness review in any entity affiliated with or setting of the United Church of Christ that resulted in:

Censure

No

Suspension

No

Termination of Ministerial Standing

No

Are you currently engaged in a program of growth as the result of a fitness review in the United Church of Christ?

No

Are there any fitness reviews pending against you at this time by any setting or entity of or affiliated with the United Church of Christ?

No

Have you ever been the subject of an official disciplinary proceeding by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer that resulted in disciplinary action?

No

Are there any official disciplinary proceedings pending against you at this time by another denomination, professional association, credentialing body, guild or employer?

No

Have you ever been the subject of a civil law suit alleging that you attempted or actually engaged in sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct; which has ever resulted in a judgment being entered against you, settled out of court, or dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired?

No

Have you had your driving license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years?

No

Have you ever been found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to criminal charges? (Exclude convictions that have been sealed, expunged or legally eradicated; any misdemeanor conviction for which probation was successfully completed; offenses about which inquiry is not permissible in the state in which you are seeking a position; acts of civil disobedience. With respect to driving record, only include matters of reckless driving, driving while intoxicated and/or driving under the influence of a controlled substance.)

No

Has your employment, a volunteer position, or professional credentials, ever been terminated or revoked, or have you been asked not to return to employment or a volunteer position in the future because you attempted or actually engaged in:

Sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation or misconduct

No

Physical abuse

No

Child abuse



No

Financial misconduct

No

Have you ever terminated your employment, a volunteer position, or professional credentials in order to avoid facing or to avoid being terminated because of charges of actual or attempted:

Sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation or misconduct

No

Physical abuse

No

Child abuse

No

Financial misconduct

No

Are there any facts or circumstances involving you or your background that should be disclosed and/or further reviewed before you are entrusted with the responsibilities of ministry on behalf of a calling body of the United Church of Christ?

No

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide detailed explanation for all such affirmative answers. In addition to providing other relevant material, be sure to include dates and information for related official decisions, actions, reviews, etc. (by you and/or other parties) that affected your employment and/or ministerial standing and/or professional credentials.

n/a

Criminal Background Check

Attached

Report Date

February 18, 2013

Expiration Date

August 18, 2014

Supplemental Material



You are invited to include below what is relevant to interpreting your history, whether Criminal Background Check information or Vocational History. You are also invited to include for the Calling Body's awareness, any special factors not mentioned elsewhere.

Interpreting The History

Additional Comments

Optional Web Presence.....

URL	Type	Primary
http://www.living-as-church.com	Blog	

Closing Thoughts

 You are invited to share a prayer or dream for the community which you imagine serving ... a poem, a Scripture passage, or a piece of music that is meaningful to you.

Closing Thoughts

May the LORD bless you and keep you, may God guide us both in wisdom and in mystery, and may the Spirit spark something new through our fellowship.

Attachments



Oxford Document Management Company, Inc.

655 West Highway 10, Anoka, MN 55303-1623

Telephone: (763) 971-0124 or (800) 801-9114

Fax: (763) 971-0126 or (800) 951-9114

www.oxforddoc.com

FINAL REPORT CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

December 9, 2013

UCC Ministerial Excellence Support & Authorization - (#784)

ATTN: The Rev. Holly MillerShank

700 Prospect Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44115

RE: Malcolm E Himschoot

Location:

Dear Ms. MillerShank:

We have completed the background investigation on the above-named person in accordance with your request. We are reporting results for the following research services performed:

Special Service

Test Test

Clear

This report is submitted with the understanding that it is to be held in strict confidence. Except as may be required by law, no information in this report may be revealed directly or indirectly to any third parties not involved in the current decision-making process.

Oxford Document Management has used good faith in attempting to obtain the information in this report from sources deemed reliable. Because this information is secured from and managed by fallible sources (human and otherwise), Oxford Document Management cannot be either an insurer or a guarantor of the accuracy of the information reported. The employees of Oxford Document Management are not allowed to render opinions regarding information contained in this report.

If you have further questions about this file, please feel free to call.

Respectfully yours,

Robert G. Leverentz
Vice President