## Appendix C:

**Statement of Consent and Background Disclosure**

The United Church of Christ Constitution recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ [paragraph 20]. God also calls certain of the church’s members to various forms of ministry in and on

behalf of the church (paragraph 21].

Persons completing a Member in Discernment application bring unique gifts, skill, and experiences. The Association understands the integrity of the MID process to depend upon supportive cooperation and considerate and appropriate sharing of information among the Committee on Church & Ministry, Maine Conference staff, Member in Discernment partners, and others involved in providing nurture or making decisions.

We are called to speak the truth in love. Our primary goal is, in all circumstances, to build up the body of Christ. Relationships between the Association and persons seeking Member in Discernment status require honesty, integrity, and truthfulness for the health of the church. In that spirit:

***I attest that the information contained in my application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for rejection of consideration for Member in Discernment status.***

An open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing healthy relationships between the Association Committee on Church & Ministry and persons seeking Member in Discernment status. In that spirit:

***I authorize the persons or entities to whom I have submitted this application and/or their agents to make inquiries regarding all statements contained in my application. I also authorize all persons, entities, former employees, committees on the ministry and their agents, courts, law enforcement and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me, and to supply verification of the information contained in my application. I understand that such persons may comment on and state their opinions regarding my background and character to agents of the Association Committee on Church & Ministry. 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 without malice.***

The Member in Discernment process of the Association further rests on the sharing of the application and relevant information in considerate and appropriate ways with those involved in the Member in Discernment process. In that spirit:

***I authorize the Association Committee on Church & Ministry to share information gathered in connection with the Member in Discernment process with the Maine Conference staff, my Discernment Advisor(s), and the Association Council. I understand that those gathering information about me concerning my Member in Discernment application are encouraged to share such information with me if requested by me to do so.***

***I affirm that the position, power and authority associated with a ministry authorized by the United Church of Christ, extends and participates in the ministry of Jesus Christ and is intended to be of benefit to all served by this ministry.***

***I affirm that I have included any previous in-care student/member in discernment, licensed or ordained situations in any association/ conference/denomination***

***No civil law alleging that I attempted or actually engaged in sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct has ever resulted in a judgment being entered against me, settled out of court, or dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired.***

1. With respect to driving record include matters of reckless driving, driving while intoxicated and/or under the influence of a controlled substance; with respect to criminal charges do not include acts of civil disobedience: (please initial each item)

 I have not had my driving license suspended or revoked within the last five years.

 I have not been found guilty or plead guilty or no contest to criminal charges.

2 My employment has not been terminated because I attempted or actually engaged in:

 sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct

 physical abuse

 child abuse

 financial misconduct

3 I have not terminated my employment 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

 physical abuse

 child abuse

 financial misconduct

**In my judgment, there are no facts or circumstances involving me or my background that would warrant further review before my being entrusted with being a Member in Discernment in the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

Candidate Signature: Date: \_\_\_

Candidate’s Name Printed: \_\_

If you wish to provide comment for any of the above statements you may do so below or on an attached sheet of paper.

**Please return completed application and all documentation to:**

Cumberland Association Clerk

Email: cumberlandassocclerk@gmail.com