## Appendix H:

## Recommended Ordination Paper Outlines

The following three outlines for ordination papers are accepted by the Cumberland Association Committee on Church & Ministry. Any other outlines must be approved by the Committee before writing the paper.

The Ordination Paper should be double-spaced, using a 12-point font, and should be at least 10 pages and not exceed 25 pages.

## Outline I

1. Theological Perspectives
   1. What is your understanding of the historic Christian faith?
   2. What is your own theological perspective? Refer to the UCC Statement

of Faith and paragraph two of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

1. The United Church of Christ
   1. How do you understand the historical and theological roots of the United Church

of Christ?

* 1. How would you explain the polity and practice of the United Church of Christ?

(Please address the issues of covenant, unity, autonomy, etc., and discuss

paragraphs 3, 7, 14, 15, 16 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.)

1. Ministry and Pilgrimage
   1. How would you relate the previously discussed issues to your own faith pilgrimage?
      1. What is your understanding of call, ordination, church, mission, preaching, the sacraments and ministry?
      2. What is the challenge and vision of your own ministry?
      3. How do you see your gifts fitting into your call?
      4. What is the meaning of ordination in the United Church of Christ?
   2. How do you understand your commitment to the United Church of Christ and

the ecumenical church?

* 1. What aspects of the history, polity, and practice of the United Church of Christ do

you most value?

## Outline II (Based on the UCC Book of Worship (copyright 1986), Examination questions found on pages 407-408

1. Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained a minister in the Church of

the Lord Jesus Christ, and are you ready to enter this ministry and faithfully serve in it?

* 1. Briefly relate a summary of your faith journey and your call to the Christian

Ministry in the United Church of Christ.

* 1. Within the context of the universal ministry of God’s people, why have you

chosen to seek ordination, and what particular gifts do you bring to this

ministry?

II Do you, with the Church throughout the world, hear the Word of God in the Scriptures of

the Old and New Testaments, and do you accept it as the rule of Christian faith and

practice?

A How do you understand the nature of the Word of God as it is revealed in the

Scripture of the Old and New Testaments?

B What does it mean to accept this Word as the rule of Christian faith and practice?

III Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and reading of the scriptures,

as well as in the public duties of your office?

A How do you practice your devotional life and what is the place of prayer in your

life?

B How do you intend to find rest and renewal in the context of the Biblical theme

of Sabbath within the context of the “public duties of your office,” and how do

the present (or future) demands of family life (or of single life) fit within the

context of those duties?

C What do baptism and the sacraments mean to you in your personal life and to

you in your role as a leader in the UCC Worship?

IV Will you be zealous in maintaining both the “truth of the gospel” and “the peace of the

Church,” speaking the truth in love?

* 1. Concerning the “truth of the gospel,” what is your understanding of the doctrine

of salvation: the person of Christ, the incarnation, the Cross and Resurrection,

sin, repentance, forgiveness judgment, grace, and eschatology?

* 1. Concerning the “peace of the Church,” how would you deal with those conflict

situations when you are called to speak the prophetic word of “truth in love,”

both in personal and social justice situations?

V Do you accept the “faith and order” of the United Church of Christ; and will you, as an

ordained minister in this communion, show compassionate affection toward all who

are in Christ?

1. How do you understand the “faith and order” of the United Church of Christ, specifically concerning the Trinity, Baptism, Communion, Covenant, and the Statement of Faith?
2. What is your understanding of “The Church,” local church, covenant, the wider church, and how does “The Church” relate to the world through evangelism, social action, and mission?

**Outline III**

1. Statement of Christian Experience
   1. Home and local church
   2. Education
   3. Call to the ministry
2. Statement of Christian Beliefs
   1. God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit
      1. Creation and Providence; Judgment and Grace
      2. Person of Christ; Incarnation, Atonement (problem of evil), Salvation Resurrection
      3. Revelation and the Holy Scriptures
   2. Humanity
      1. Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness
      2. Prayer
      3. Eternal Life
   3. The Church and the Kingdom
      1. Doctrine of history and the second coming
      2. Church and the world (including evangelism, social action, mission)
      3. My denomination and the Church
      4. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper
      5. The ministry (lay and ordained)

Conclusion: Including “Why I desire ordination in the United Church of Christ”