

Commissioned Minister FAQs

Answers to common questions about provisions for commissioned ministers

Q: Are there compensation guidelines for commissioned ministers?

A: With the ratification of the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ at General Synod 28 in 2011, all ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministers in the UCC are considered “authorized ministers.” However; most Conference Compensation Guidelines (set by each individual conference) are based on the ministry task performed and not on the type of authorization and thus are designed specifically to address compensation needs for local church pastors. These guidelines do not cover employment benefits for other church staff members nor for ministers serving in specialized ministry settings such as chaplaincy. Check with your conference to see if its compensation guidelines for authorized ministers goes beyond local church pastors. Also, depending on the specific ministry to which you are called, there may be compensation guidelines within that ministry, such as for [church musicians](#) or [church educators and youth leaders](#).

Q: Do commissioned ministers wear robes and stoles?

A: There are many roles within a service of worship for which robes are worn, for instance acolytes and members of the choir often wear robes to signify the special ministry they offer. Commissioned ministers may also wear robes when they are serving specific roles in worship. The jury is out on whether or not commissioned ministers should wear stoles. Speak with your pastor or conference minister to determine what the common practice is in your area. There are other accoutrements available if stoles are not deemed appropriate, such as albs, scapulars, and surplices.

Q: What title does a commissioned minister use?

A: Commissioned Minister of [specific ministry]. If the specification of “commissioned” is not needed, then Minister of [specific ministry] may be used. When listed with other ministers where “Rev.” is included, C.M. can be used after one’s name and a comma.

If you have other questions that have not been addressed on the [Commissioned Ministry page](#) of the website of the Association of United Church Educators, please send us an e-mail with your question to info@auce-ucc.org.

Blessings on your ministry!