

NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE 2015 Application Process

NGLI seeks to honor and challenge young clergy who demonstrate significant potential and have accepted the high calling to parish ministry, who view parish ministry as a career path, and are willing to make a long-term commitment to service in congregational settings of the United Church of Christ.

SECTION ONE: EXPECTATIONS

Criteria for selection fall into four main categories, summarized below:

Basic Expectations of Candidates

The ideal candidate will:

- Be 35 years of age or under at the point of admission to **NGLI: Target 2030**;
- Have served a total of five years or fewer as an authorized minister in a parish;
- Hold a called and authorized position of 20 hours per week or more in a parish setting; and
- Be committed to long-term ministry in local churches of the United Church of Christ.

Professional Development of Candidates

Candidates will:

- Be committed to the culture of the United Church of Christ;
- Have exposure to various settings of the United Church of Christ;
- Be able to articulate a personal vision/mission/purpose statement for leadership in a parish setting;
- Demonstrate experience in and love for the local church;
- Demonstrate ability to think critically;
- Demonstrate capacity to think creatively when confronted with complexity, new ideas, shifting paradigms, and challenging situations;
- Have an excellent command of language – both written and verbal;
- Have experience with team building, conflict utilization, and theological reflection;
- Be conversant with various approaches to enliven congregational mission; and
- Have familiarity and facility with twenty-first century communications technologies.

Personal Traits of Candidates

Candidates will:

- Be persons of faith;
- Be trusting, trustworthy, and able to engender a sense of trust in others;
- Demonstrate emotional and spiritual maturity appropriate to their age;
- Be persons of integrity – “what you see is what you get”;

- Have a lifestyle committed to well-being in body and spirit;
- Be able to deal with pressure;
- Be open to expressions of diverse ideas and relationships with people of diverse backgrounds;
- Be able to “think on their feet”;
- Be vigorous and enthusiastic about life and ministry;
- Be resilient and persevering;
- Be teachable;
- Be self-confident without being self-centered; and
- Be intellectually curious.

**Note: Applicants will be considered without regard to race, sex, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.*

Basic Expectations of Congregations

The congregation can expect to:

- Grow with their pastor as she/he learns from some of the world’s greatest thinkers in leadership development.
- Offer prayers for their pastor as she/he also lifts up the congregation so that the experience may be a blessing for all.
- Provide the time for their pastor to attend NGLI events, which occur twice a year for approximately one week each in Years 1-4. Years 5-10 are more self-directed, but will also need time away for study. It is important to note that this is continuing education time, not vacation since the pastor will be hard at work learning and growing.
- Provide for worship leadership, pastoral care coverage, and other critical ministerial duties while their pastor is away.
- Avoid the scheduling of meetings or conference calls that expect to include their pastor.
- Have identified leaders participate in annual on-line assessment of their pastor as a transformational leader.
- Have the opportunity to participate in Natural Church Development congregational assessments that may occur twice after Year Four. Results will be shared with the congregation who may wish to create strategic plans for growth and renewal from the findings.
- Encounter a pastor who will return to their congregation with new ideas, new questions, and new techniques in ministry. Be prepared for conversations that might introduce new ideas for worship and programming, challenge components of the status quo, and move the congregation deeper into its call and mission to be the body of Christ.

SECTION TWO: APPLICATION

In order to be considered as an applicant for the Class of 2026, you must complete the three Intent to Apply parts by March 27, 2015 and the Video Application by April 24, 2015. Your application will be completed only when you have submitted all four parts by the designated deadline.

Part 1: Intent to Apply Form - Deadline March 27, 2015

Type your answers to the Intent to Apply form in the boxes provided and when finished, hit "submit form" at the end. You will receive a confirmation email when the form has been received.

[Link to 2015 NGLI Intent to Apply Form](#)

Part 2: Congregational Support Document - Deadline March 27, 2015

Print the "Congregational Support Document" and have your congregation's moderator / president sign, acknowledging their awareness of your application and their support if you are selected to participate in NGLI. This completed document should be emailed to nqli2030@pbucc.org.

[Link to 2015 NGLI Congregational Support Document](#)

Part 3: UCC Ministerial Profile - Deadline March 27, 2015

Submit a copy of your UCC Ministerial Profile. Contact Darrell Ludwig in the UCC/LCM/MESA office at profiles@ucc.org and request that he forward a copy to The Pension Boards, in care of the Director of Ministerial Assistance at nqli2030@pbucc.org by March 27, 2015. We will accept copies of the "old" or "new" profile. However, please note that if your background check is out of date, MESA will not forward your profile. If that is the case, please ask your Conference to submit your latest profile or submit a copy from your personal file.

Part 4: Video Application – Deadline April 24, 2015

Videos are an important part of the application process as they give the Selection Committee the opportunity to see and hear you-- your personality, your commitment to the Church, and your vision for the future. While the technical quality of the video is not as important as the quality of your responses, it is essential that the Selection Committee be able to see and hear you with adequate sound and lighting throughout the video. Video applications should be submitted via a private link on Vimeo.

Application to NGLI will include a video of 20 to 25 minutes during which the candidate will address the following:

1. Describe your sense of call to: (a) the ministry, (b) the parish, and (c) the United Church of Christ.
2. What is your personal vision/mission/purpose statement for your life?
3. What is one thing you are most passionate about in the congregation you are currently serving?
4. Choose one Biblical text and describe how it has influenced and shaped your understanding of ministry.
5. What leadership lessons have you learned through the years that have proven valuable in your ministry?
6. Describe the most pressing challenges facing Christian congregations today.
7. How do you anticipate NGLI will equip and strengthen your ministry? What contributions/gifts would you bring to your cohort of colleagues?

Application Time Line

Notice of Intent to Apply Form – Due by March 27, 2015*

Congregational Support Document - Due March 27, 2015*

UCC Ministerial Profile - Due by March 27, 2015*

Video Application – Due by April 24, 2015 *

Phone, Web, and/or face-to-face interviews may be conducted at the discretion of the Selection Committee during the Summer of 2015

Decisions announced by August 2015

Orientation of New Class at the UCC Church House in Cleveland – Fall 2015

**Note: These are hard deadlines. Extensions should not be expected.*

**NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE
2015 INTENT TO APPLY
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT**

It is important that the leadership of the congregation be aware and supportive of a pastor's application to the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) since this experience will also impact the life of the congregation. It may be helpful to share with the congregation the NGLI FAQ document available at ngli2030.pbucc.org.

In order to complete the Intent to Apply process, share the following list of "Basic Expectations of Congregations" with the church leaders and have the church president/moderator sign below. The signed page should be emailed (ngli2030@pbucc.org) by March 27, 2015 in order for the applicant to be considered for the Class of 2026.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS OF A CONGREGATION

If a pastor is selected to participate in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, the congregation can expect to:

- Grow with their pastor as she/he learns from some of the world's greatest thinkers in leadership development.
- Offer prayers for their pastor as she/he also lifts up the congregation so that the experience may be a blessing for all.
- Provide the time for their pastor to attend NGLI events, which occur twice a year for approximately one week each in Years 1-4. Years 5-10 are more self-directed, but will also need time away for study. It is important to note that this is continuing education time, not vacation time since the pastor will be hard at work learning and growing.
- Provide for worship leadership, pastoral care coverage, and other critical ministerial duties while their pastor is away.
- Avoid the scheduling of meetings or conference calls that expect to include their pastor during NGLI events.
- Have identified leaders participate in annual on-line assessment of their pastor as a transformational leader.
- Have the opportunity to participate in Natural Church Development congregational assessments that may occur twice after Year Four. Results will be shared with the congregation, which may wish to create strategic plans for growth and renewal from the findings.
- Encounter a pastor who will return to their congregation with new ideas, new questions, and new techniques in ministry. Be prepared for conversations that might introduce new ideas for worship and programming, challenge components of the status quo, and move the congregation deeper into its call and mission to be the body of Christ.

SIGNATURES

We are aware and support the application of our pastor to the Next Generation Leadership Initiative.

We are prepared to abide by the list of “Basic Expectations of Congregations” if our pastor is selected to participate in NGLI.

Name of Congregation_____

City/State of Congregation_____

Print Name of Moderator/President_____

Signature of Moderator/President_____

Date_____

Print Name of Pastor applying for NGLI_____

Signature of Pastor applying for NGLI_____

Date_____