

Position Description
Minister of Strategic Innovation
Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC

Introduction: The Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC has determined that it will move from two Associate Conference Ministers to one ACM as of July 1, 2014 due to financial constraints. This position has been created in order to make that transition as healthy and successful as possible for the churches, members and authorized ministers of the Conference.

General Statement of Responsibilities: The Minister of Strategic Innovation is responsible to assess the opportunities and challenges before the Missouri Mid-South Conference as it reconfigures its life with new models of Conference ministry. This minister will develop initiatives to increase the capacity of the authorized ministers, churches, laity and associations to assume a variety of responsibilities for our common life. The incumbent will also prepare systems and procedures within the Conference's program and administrative life to ensure as healthy a transition as possible. The Minister will oversee communications to build up relationships and to ensure transparency throughout the life of the Conference. All work is done in coordination with the Visioning process and under the oversight of the Conference Minister and in collaboration with other staff.

Accountability: The Minister of Strategic Innovation is selected by the Conference Minister, confirmed by the Conference Council and accountable to the Conference Minister.

Term: This position is funded through June 30, 2014

Specific Responsibilities:

- Identify aspects of Conference work that can be transformed by the involvement of members, assisting in growing capacity within the Conference, teaching skills, and mobilizing the people of the Conference in ministry and mission
- Assess the viability and sustainability of a variety of alternative ways by which the people of the Conference may participate in our common life through the gifts of their skills
- Build partnerships with organizations throughout the Conference's geography, and potentially beyond
- Develop training and resources to undergird these initiatives
- Build a communications strategy that is sustainable
- Equip staff and volunteers with a robust plan for mission interpretation, with particular emphasis on Our Church's Wider Mission and the development of new means of support for the Conference
- Provide staff services to local church search committees as assigned by Conference Minister
- Support and work collaboratively with the Visioning process as assigned by Conference Minister
- Other work as assigned by the Conference Minister

Qualifications:

- A person of Christian faith
- Knowledge of and appreciation for the United Church of Christ in all its settings
- Significant management and leadership experience in the church and/or nonprofit settings
- Articulate in both oral and written communication

- Demonstrated capacity in systems change and willingness to grasp and use new communications media
- Proven ability to work with diverse people and settings (rural, small town, city; racial/ethnic; clergy and lay; generations, etc.)
- Graduate degree, preferably in a field related to family systems, communications, counseling or consulting, theology or ministry
- Ability and willingness to travel throughout the tri-state Conference (and beyond as necessary), including possession of a valid driver's license and a vehicle

Qualities Desired: This individual will have a pastoral demeanor (ordination is not required), a high degree of professionalism, and a love for the local church. He or she will have a reputation for listening well and for a collaborative work style. The ability to see both the big picture and the details, the vision and the steps to achieve the vision is a must. Experience in the wider United Church of Christ is a plus.

The Missouri Mid-South Conference is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer.

Application Process: Candidate will submit a professional resume which addresses the elements of the above position description and demonstrates experience and skills in each area. For those with UCC profiles on file, a cover letter addressing the elements will be required. All candidates will be required to have or to complete a criminal background check before employment. Please submit the names and contact information of three references who can speak directly to one's ability to accomplish the work projected. All submissions are to Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Acting Conference Minister at davida@mmsucc.org. Deadline for submission of materials is July 19 at 5 p.m. Start date is immediate.