



MCC[®]

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

**Beginning or Continuing the Process
of Discerning a Call to Ordained Ministry in MCC
and Seeking "In Care" Status**

**MCC Office of Clergy Development
MCC Atlanta Office
PO Box 14309
Atlanta, GA 30324**

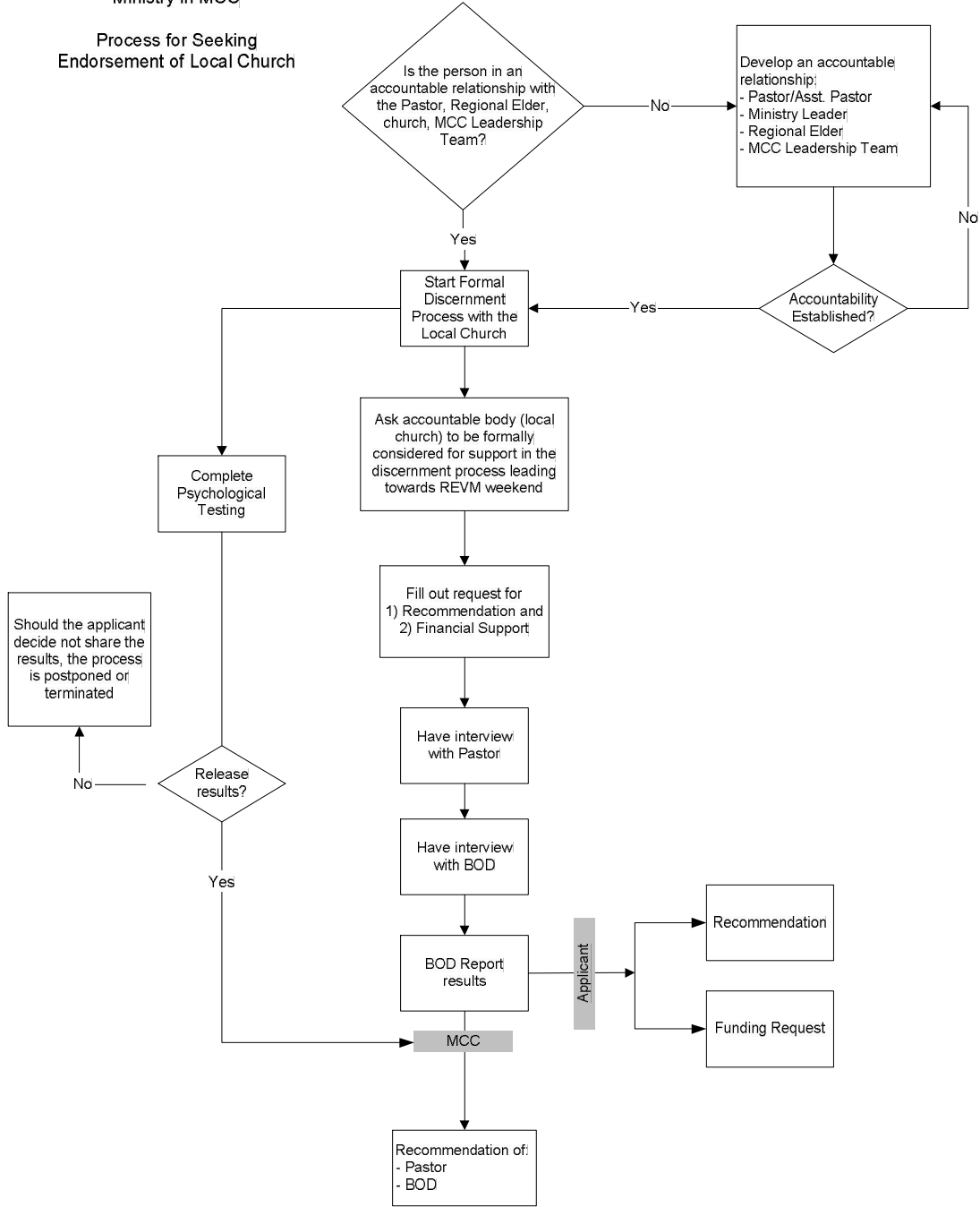
Discerning a Call to Ordained Ministry: Seeking the Endorsement of the Local Church

The following process is designed to provide procedural suggestions for the local church in processing applications for endorsements and church sponsored financial support. The process has two goals, to provide feedback to the applicant and MCC regarding the applicants' next step in their discernment process leading to the REVM weekend, and to provide a process for churches as they consider endorsing and/or providing some level of financial support to applicants.

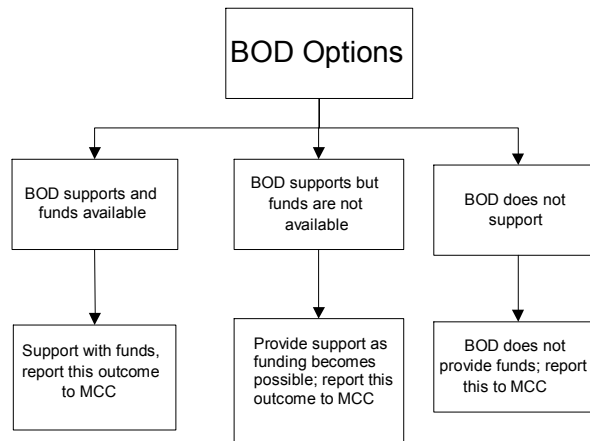
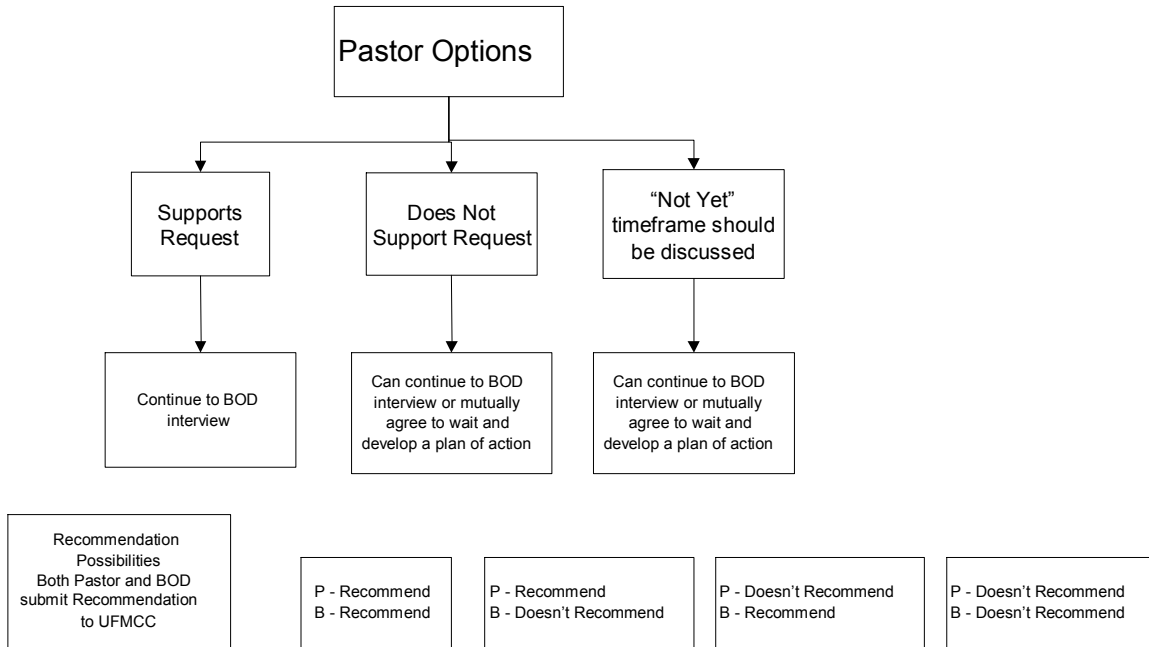
The process is intended to foster a covenant relationship between the applicant, the local church, and MCC through the Office of Clergy Development. Keep in mind that at the end of this process the goal is for the local church administrative body and the Pastor to provide MCC with important input on the next steps for the applicant. Specifically, the Pastor and the local church administrative body are asked to decide (1) whether to endorse that the applicant proceed to the next step of seeking "in care" status and (2) whether the local church will provide financial support to the applicant. Both the Pastor and the local church administrative body will provide a written response to MCC and to the applicant. Again, these steps are not designed to determine the final outcome of the process, only to provide input to the applicant and to MCC on the next steps.

If at all possible, churches should plan ahead and have the discussion about support of candidates before it considers any individual's application. This will allow the local church administrative body and Pastor to be able to decide on the fundamental principals of how they will approach the provision of spiritual and financial support, rather than being put in the uncomfortable position of making such decisions solely on the basis of individual personalities. A decision to provide financial support should be considered within the context of the church's overall financial capacity. The ultimate goal is for the church to invest in the process of equipping leaders for the larger mission and ministry of MCC through their full participation in the discernment process.

Discerning a Call to Ordained Ministry in MCC
 Process for Seeking Endorsement of Local Church



Pastor/BOD Decision Making Options



Application to BOD for Church Endorsement and/or Financial Support for
Next Steps in the Discernment Process (page 1 of 2)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

1. Application for church funding in the amount of \$_____.

2. Provide a description of your request (e.g. fees for psychological testing, travel, conference and/or educational registration fees). These should be itemized.

3. Please tell us briefly about your calling.

4. Provide a brief statement explaining why you feel your request for endorsement and/or financial support calls for consideration.

Application to BOD for Church Endorsement and/or Financial Support for
Next Steps in the Discernment Process (page 2 of 2)

Name: _____

5. Describe how the provision of an endorsement and/or financial support will help to meet your calling, vision, mission, core values.

6. Pastor comments.

Considerations for Board of Directors when Considering Endorsement of Applicant for REVM

After reviewing the application and conducting discussion with the Pastor (or designee), the BOD should ask sufficient questions in the interview to answer the following questions for themselves.

Comments on the Applicant's Interview:

1. To what extent could the applicant articulate his/her call, purpose, and vision?
2. To what extent could the applicant articulate his/her vision of how the provision of the endorsement and/or funding will assist in his/her ministry, service to the church, service to MCC?
3. In your judgment and prayerful consideration, to what extent is this person "fit", "ready", "able", "prepared", and "equipped" for this endeavor?
4. In your judgment and prayerful consideration, to what extent is this person "fit", "ready", "able", "prepared", and "equipped" for ministry?

BOD deliberations:

1. Does the request fall within the stated vision, mission, and core values of the church?
2. Does the request meet the requirements of the church's by-laws?
3. Is the request/purpose supported by the Pastor, BOD?
4. Is the request budgeted?
5. To what extent does the BOD understand its participation and/or investment in this process to be a contribution to the larger goal of equipping leadership for the mission and ministry of MCC?
6. Will the BOD endorse the applicant yet provide no financial support?
7. Does the BOD have any established limits on how much financial support it can provide for applicants?
8. If the BOD does not endorse the candidate, how will the BOD explain to the applicant 1) the process, 2) the decision, and 3) what, if anything could be done to change the decision?
9. Is the BOD prepared to be consistent with regard to its endorsements and financial support?
10. Will the BOD seek input from the larger congregation, and, if so, how?

Applicant Request for Interview with the Pastor/Board of Directors'
to Consider Endorsement and/or Financial Support

I _____ wish to covenant with _____ (local church) in order to formally begin the next step in my process of discerning a call to ordained ministry in MCC. The process of seeking "in care" status begins with establishing a covenant between myself, the local church, and MCC and may or may not ultimately lead to ordained ministry.

I am requesting an interview with the Pastor or his/her designated representative and, if appropriate, a follow up interview with the Board of Directors.

As a part of the steps of this covenant relationship in the discernment process I agree to:

- Accountability to the Pastor
- Abide by the MCC requirements for the discernment process in accordance with the Manual for Professional Ordained Ministry; US and Canada protocols dated 2007

As a part of the steps of this covenant relationship in the discernment process, I request that the church agrees to:

- Assist in the discernment process
- Provide feedback to me and to MCC

Applicant

Date

If I, the Pastor and/or the BOD determine that now is not the time to proceed in this phase of the discernment process, we have the option to revisit the questions and take action at a later time.

Pastor

BOD (vice mod. or clerk)

Date

Date

Pastor's Endorsement Form for REVM Retreat

Date: _____

Church: _____

Applicant: _____

Pastor: _____

1. Pastor endorsement:

- I endorse this candidate for participation in the REVM Retreat
- I endorse this candidate, with qualifications (explain below)
- I do not endorse this candidate at this time, but will reconsider at a later date if appropriate.
- I do not endorse this candidate for participation in the REVM Retreat

Additional comments:

2. Pastor assessment of applicant's readiness to move on to the next phase of the process of discerning a call to ordained ministry.

Pastor signature

Date

This form should be completed by the Pastor, shared with the applicant,
and submitted to the MCC Office of Clergy Development:
MCC Atlanta Office (Attn: Ritchie Crownfield), PO Box 14309, Atlanta, GA 30324

Local Church Endorsement Form for REVM Retreat

Date: _____

Church: _____

Applicant: _____

1. BOD endorsement regarding applicant's interview.

- We endorse this candidate for participation in the REVM Retreat
- We endorse this candidate, with qualifications (explain below)
- We do not endorse this candidate at this time, but will reconsider at a later date if appropriate.
- We do not endorse this candidate for participation in the REVM Retreat

Additional comments:

2. BOD assessment of applicant's readiness to move on to the next phase in discerning a call to ordained ministry.

3.

Did the BOD agree to provide financial support for applicant?

If so, amount \$_____.

If not, reason for denying request:

BOD signature (vice mod. or clerk)

Date

This form should be completed by the BOD clerk, shared with the applicant,
and submitted to the MCC Office of Clergy Development:
MCC Atlanta Office (Attn: Ritchie Crownfield), PO Box 14309, Atlanta, GA 30324