

NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE 2018 Application Process

Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) is a leadership development initiative that equips, energizes, and empowers younger United Church of Christ local church pastors to build vibrant congregations that change lives and further God’s mission in the world.

NGLI seeks to honor and challenge younger clergy who demonstrate significant potential, who 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.

Frequently Asked Questions about the purpose and structure of NGLI may be found at ngli2030.pbucc.org.

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 as of the point of admission to NGLI (or June 1, 2018)
- Be authorized for ministry in and on behalf of the UCC by an Association/Conference
- Have served a total of five years or less as an authorized minister in a parish
- Hold a called position of 20 hours per week or more in a parish setting
- Be committed to long-term ministry in local churches of the United Church of Christ

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

Professional Development and Personal Traits of Candidates

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAITS	PERSONAL TRAITS
Be able to articulate a personal vision/ mission/ core values statement for leadership in a parish setting	Be a person of faith that shows love of God, trust in Jesus, and openness to the Holy Spirit
Be committed to the mission of the United Church of Christ	Be trusting, trustworthy, and able to engender a sense of trust in others
Have experiences in the various settings of the United Church of Christ	Demonstrate emotional and spiritual maturity appropriate to their age
Demonstrate experience in and love for the local church	Be persons of integrity – “what you see is what you get”

Willingness and capacity to help a congregation broaden its base for mission and ministry	Be committed to well-being in body and spirit
Engage in spiritual practices that ground life and leadership	Be able to deal with pressure
Demonstrate capacity to think creatively when confronted with complexity, new ideas, shifting paradigms, and challenging situations	Be open to expressions of diverse ideas and relationships with people of diverse backgrounds
Creates a spirit and experience of teamwork within the congregation	Be able to “think on their feet”
Embodies a commitment to diversity	Be vigorous and enthusiastic about life and ministry
Have competence in twenty-first century communications technologies	Be resilient and persevering
Have excellent written and verbal skills	Be teachable
Demonstrate ability to think critically and theologically reflect	Be self-confident without being self-centered
Willing to lean into conflict from a self-differentiated and non-anxious perspective	Be intellectually curious
Welcomes feedback and integrates new insights	Be self-aware and able to self-reflect

Responsibilities of the congregation where the NGLI participant serves include

- Partner with their pastor as they ask new questions, offer new ideas, practice new skills in ministry, and develop a mission and vision for the congregation,
- 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 5-6 are more self-directed, but will also likely 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 during scheduled NGLI events,
- Have identified leaders participate in annual assessments of their pastor as a transformational leader,
- Complete the annual UCC Yearbook reporting so that trends and patterns can be observed across the churches participating in NGLI.

SECTION TWO: APPLICATION

In order to be considered as an applicant for the NGLI9 Cohort, you must complete the three steps of the Intent to Apply section by February 19, 2018 and the Video Application by March 19, 2018. Your application will be completed only when you have submitted all four parts by the designated deadlines.

Step 1: Intent to Apply Form - Deadline February 19, 2018

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 2018 NGLI Intent to Apply Form](#)

Step 2: Congregational Support Document - Deadline February 19, 2018

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 Congregational Support Document](#)

Step 3: UCC Ministerial Profile - Deadline February 19, 2018

Submit a copy of your UCC Ministerial Profile. We will only accept profiles with background checks that were completed after January 2013. Contact Darrell Ludwig in the UCC/LCM/MESA office at profiles@ucc.org and request a copy be forwarded to the Pension Boards, in care of the Director of Ministerial Assistance at nqli2030@pbucc.org.

Step 4: Video Application – Deadline March 19, 2018

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. The artistic quality of the video is not as important as the quality of your responses. It is essential, however, that the Selection Committee be able to see and hear you with adequate sound and lighting throughout the video. Also, please note that if you re-order the questions, be sure to specify the number that coordinates with the question so we know which question you are answering. Video applications should be submitted via a private link to nqli2030@pbucc.org.

Application to NGLI will include a video of no more than 20 to 25 minutes during which the candidate will address the following:

1. How has God called you to: a. the ministry, b. the parish, and c. the United Church of Christ?
2. Share your personal vision/mission/purpose statement for your life.
3. Choose a Biblical text and give specific examples on how it calls you and your congregation to faithful and fruitful ministry.
4. What leadership lessons have already proven valuable in your ministry?

5. What spiritual practices do you engage in that deepen your faith and nurture your resiliency for ministry?
6. What would it look like for a cohort of colleagues to encourage and challenge one another in ministry?

Application Time Line

- February 19, 2018*
 1. Notice of Intent to Apply Form Due
 2. Congregational Support Document Due
 3. UCC Ministerial Profile
- March 19, 2018*- Video Application Due
- June 2018- Invitations issued (telephone, web, and/or face-to-face interviews may be conducted at the discretion of the Selection Committee)
- August/September 2018- Orientation of new cohort at the UCC Church House in Cleveland
- January 3-9, 2019- First NGLI Core Session

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