Dear Discerner,

Greetings! The Pacific Southwest District rejoices in your exploration of a call to consider the set-apart ministry. We want this process to be as friendly and transparent as possible. See the attached candidate’s check list for more information. You are always welcome to call or email with any questions.

Outline of the Process:

Where to Start:

1. Study the flow chart “From Discerner to Licensed Minister”
   Discerner senses “call” and/or receives invitation to consider ministry
   Congregational Connection (pastor – leadership team – ministry team)
   District Connection (district executive – ministry commission – calling/credentialing team)
   Exploration of Call
   Discerner
district
   calling cohort
   congregation

2. Discernment leads to moving forward with call
   Calling Cohort/Discerner – Develops draft of Covenant of Accountability
   Congregation – further conversation and prayerful engagement with discerner, reviews draft of
   Covenant of Accountability
   District – conversation about ministry training/formation and ministry circles with discerner
   Calling Interview – interview guide utilized, covenant of accountability reviewed, discernment
   of gifts for call
   Covenant of Accountability (fillable PDF)
   www.pswdcob.org/publications/ministerial-leadership-manual

3. Begin your study of these four documents
   Liderazgo Ministerial – 2014
   (2) PSWD Addendum to Ministerial Leadership Polity *
   (4) 2014 Congregational Ethics Polity. www.brethren.org/discipleship/ethics.html
   * They are all available at: www.pswdcob.org/publications/ministerial-leadership-manual

4. Begin the items on the attached discerner’s check list.

If you have questions about the discerning process please contact the District Executive Minister.

In Christ, The Ministry Commission
## Discerner’s Check List

All of these materials should be typed.  
*Hand written materials will be returned.*

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### (A) Your Responsibility

1) **Covenant of Accountability** (lists cohort members from church, district, and others)

2) **Candidate Information Form**

3) **Criminal Background Check** (release form)

4) Finished reading all the related documents

5) **Pre-Licensing Interview Guide** with a paper copy of the signed page 9. Only available through the district office, call or email when you’re ready to begin.

6) **Transcripts**: All post high school transcripts. *These items must be mailed to the district office directly from the source (not through you, the candidate).*

7) Optional: Letters of reference or recommendation.

8) **Readiness for Ministry (RfM) Evaluation completed** (consult with District Executive)
   - (A) Paid candidate’s share of cost ($200 for Discerner, send check to PSWD)(C.3. below)
   - (B) Returned RfM Release of Records Authorization
   - (C) Complete RfM written Assessments
   - (D) Complete RfM Interview

9) Optional: Ministerial Ethics Training (necessary for employment & ordination)

### (B) Church / District Responsibility

1) Indication of Congregation’s support on “Covenant of Accountability” (A.1. above).

2) Ministry Commission notifies your Congregation of their recommendation (C.6. below), and requests a Congregational vote of affirmation, (vote is to be after District action).

3) Ministry Commission schedules the Licensing Service with your pastor/congregation.

### (C) District Responsibility

1) The District Executive will be in touch with you to review the Licensing materials, RfM materials, and answer any questions you may have.

2) Assign District Appointed Mentor & District Companion (Covenant of Accountability).

3) Pay $1,200 of RfM cost (A.8.a. above).

4) When you send any materials to the District Office, we will confirm the receipt by email.

5) The Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC) schedules an interview, and reviews the Pre-Licensing Guide and other materials.

6) If approved for Licensing by the NACC, a recommendation is given to the Ministry Commission for final approval (then (B.2.) above).

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These materials are available on the web at:  