



Transforming Younger Local Church Pastors Transforming Churches Transforming Lives

Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI)

Since 2008, the United Church Board of Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards, has strengthened congregational ministry in the United Church of Christ (UCC) through the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI).

It seeks to honor and challenge younger clergy who have accepted the high calling to parish ministry, who demonstrate significant potential, and 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.

Leaders of the Future

NGLI brings together younger clergy in their first parish to focus on leadership development issues that can undergird them as they navigate into this new future. When we only focus on the future of the church, oftentimes we are thinking about how we can survive, how we can keep our membership strong, how can we keep vitality and relevance as we face the future.

When we look to the Church of the Future, we begin to allow the future to help us to evolve new forms of ministry and opportunities for service, and new ways of connecting and meeting the needs of people in a new time.

Applying for NGLI

Applying to participate in NGLI is a competitive process. Typically, there are two to three times the amount of applications received than the positions available. The ideal candidate will:

- Be 35 years of age or under at the point of admission to NGLI
- 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