



Criteria for a WISE Exploratory Team Member

We, in the Illinois South Conference, are seeking to create a seven-member exploratory team to help us discern how we might affirm and live into becoming a WISE Conference.

In thinking about this important team, we will be looking for persons who will:

- Be committed to the work of reducing stigma and promoting the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders in the life, leadership, and work of the Illinois South Conference.
- Come to the process with open-mindedness instead of a pre-determined agenda.
- Take seriously and respectfully a group process that encourages deep sharing of ideas and experiences, as well as the work itself.
- Honor the times set aside for meetings and group work by being present and fully engaged.

The bulk of the preparation process of educational work with the Mental Health Ministries of the United Church of Christ, as well as creating a covenant and action plan that will be presented at our 2022 Annual Meeting for affirmation, will be done from January 2022 to August 2022. The intensity and importance of this work require each member to make the process a high priority in the following ways:

A FAITH commitment: Regular prayer and listening to God’s “still small voice” in times of reflection, discussions, and decision making.

A TIME commitment: Being prepared to meet at least monthly from January 2022 to August 2022 as well as spending time in self-study for deeper learning, engagement, and preparation for group processes.

A CONFIDENTIALITY commitment: There may be times when members will share their own experiences of mental health struggles in their own lives or the lives of close family members and friends. To create a “brave space” for us to do this work together, we must commit to understanding that their stories are not ours to share.

A CONSENSUS commitment: Members need to be of one mind and one heart in creating the covenant and action plan we will propose to the Conference for affirmation.

**Please fill out the application and return it to the ISC Conference office
by no later than noon Friday, December 3, 2021
via an email attachment to Rev. Shana Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org
or Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org**

Thank you!