

Dear UCC Ordained, Licensed, Commissioned and Privilege of Call Ministers and Members in Discernment:

New Year's Greetings! We are pleased to announce that the United Church of Christ is being invited to participate in the **Flourishing in Ministry Project**, a national study on clergy wellbeing. This longitudinal study is designed and implemented by Dr. Matthew Bloom of the University of Notre Dame and is funded by the Lilly Endowment. Learn more about the project here: <http://wellbeing.nd.edu/flourishing-in-ministry>.

Using surveys and daily life studies, as well as conducting a limited number of interviews, the project's main objective is to provide empirical data that will shed light on the conditions most conducive to wellbeing among clergy and their families. What distinguishes a flourishing, meaningful, vital life from one that is declining, empty, languishing, or otherwise not well lived?

With your participation, the project will not only gain insight into this question; the UCC also will receive a specific aggregate report on the wellbeing of UCC ministers and members in discernment. This will assist local churches, conferences, associations, and national settings to learn more about the wellbeing of ministers in our own denomination and to help shape future practices, support, and resources.

The 11-day window for participation in the initial survey will begin on **Tuesday, February 7, 2017 and end on Friday, February 17, 2017**. Individuals whose email address is listed in the UCC Data Hub (the denominational database managed by all conferences) will receive an email with a specific link and access code to take the survey within this timeframe. After February 17, you will still be allowed to start and complete the survey; however, your information will not be part of the denominational aggregate report.

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The survey should take approximately 45 minutes to complete. If your email address is recorded within the UCC Data Hub, **you should receive an email from the Lilly Wellbeing Study (happy@nd.edu) on February 7 with the subject line “Invitation to Lilly Clergy Wellbeing Portal.”** Additional instructions and questions are included in the Frequently Asked Questions below. You will be invited to take the survey again every three months for you to compare your wellbeing over time if you choose. You can always opt out of any future participation.

This study is being conducted with the full support of the UCC national setting through the Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD). If you have questions about the survey, however, please contact the Flourishing in Ministry project directly at happy@nd.edu.

Paz,

Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD)

United Church of Christ

Learn more at:

<http://wellbeing.nd.edu/flourishing-in-ministry>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: FLOURISHING IN MINISTRY INITIAL SURVEY

1. How do I sign up for a portal account and take survey?

- ◆ You will receive an invitation email that contains a link you must click to go to our portal.
- ◆ Check the box indicating "I agree to participate in this study and I am 18 years or older."
- ◆ Create a user name and password, provide first name and last name and click blue button to sign up.
- ◆ Answer important demographic questions about yourself to help us classify answers for our research and click Finish button.
- ◆ Click on the 'Go to Survey' button.
- ◆ Take our Wellbeing Survey.
- ◆ Submit and Receive your Profile.

Important: Do not attempt to log in through a forwarded email. You must use your personal survey link.

2. From what email address will I receive the survey invitation?

- ◆ Lilly Wellbeing Study—happy@nd.edu
- ◆ Subject line: Invitation to Lilly Clergy Wellbeing Portal

3. What if I can't find my invitation email?

Please check your Spam folder. Also, if you use multiple email addresses, we sent the invitation email to the email address provided to us by your denominational leaders. If you are not able to find your invitation email, obtain a referral code from your denomination by emailing haibik@ucc.org. Please do NOT share this code. Then, visit our website at wellbeing.nd.edu, click on "Join Our Study" on the left, and click on "Start Your Journey" button to be directed to the portal. Only sign up once!

4. How long will it take me to sign up for an account and complete the survey?

30-45 minutes

5. Will my individual responses be confidential?

Definitely. We pledge to keep your individual responses confidential. We will only report aggregate results. We will NEVER discuss or provide any individual's responses to your denominational leaders.

6. How can I contact the Flourishing in Ministry Project with comments, questions, or concerns?

Please email us at wellbeing@nd.edu or call us at (574) 631-7755.

7. Can I start the survey, exit and return at the spot where I left off and have my answers to the questions saved?

If you complete the survey within the 11-day period of February 7 through February 17, 2017, you will be able to start the survey, exit and continue where you left off.