

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, SECTION A  
Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ

**INFORMATION FOR REQUIRED VOCATIONAL / PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**  
for those seeking authorization for ministry

The vocational / psychological assessment is a program of written instruments and interviews with a ministry candidate, conducted by a qualified professional. The resulting report provides you, the candidate, and the Committee on Ministry with insight into individual personal growth, challenges, gifts, and the alignment between strengths, goals, and the work of ministry.

**TIMING.** You are strongly encouraged to initiate the assessment as soon as possible after being received In Discernment by NCNC. This provides maximum opportunity for both you and COM to embrace and respond to the information provided. The assessment is required before you can be seen for any subsequent interview.

**LOCATIONS / AGENCIES.** The assessment requires a day (or portions of several days), plus in some cases, written work prepared by you in advance. Currently, there are 3 providers in the Bay Area, and one headquartered in Seattle, but with providers in the Bay Area. Contacts and fees are noted below, but are subject to change

Rev. Scott Sullender, Ph.D.  
15 Austin Ave.  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
Cell Phone: (415) 450 -0956  
Email: [jsullend@gmail.com](mailto:jsullend@gmail.com)

Dr. Terri Brenneman  
2220 Mountain Boulevard, Suite 240  
Oakland, CA 94611  
Phone: (510) 612-4833  
Email: [tjbrennemanphd@gmail.com](mailto:tjbrennemanphd@gmail.com)

Drs. Sullender and Brenneman have begun a partnership. Eventually, assessments will all shift to Dr. Brenneman. Initially you may see both; later, they will engage clients separately. Dr. Sullender should be your initial contact to make your appointment. Their fee for the assessment is \$1,000.

Dr. Valerie Creane  
406 Colusa Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530  
(510) 734-1693  
[vcreane@gmail.com](mailto:vcreane@gmail.com)  
<http://www.valeriecreane.com/>

Dr. Creane has done assessment work for the Starr King School for Ministry and the Chaplaincy Institute. Her fee is \$1,550.

The Center for Ministry in the West  
12222 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98178  
(206) 920-2656  
[www.center4ministry.com](http://www.center4ministry.com)

Providers in the Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Coeur d'Alene ID areas. Their fee is \$1,795.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT.** Obviously, there is significant expense for the assessment. NCNC *custom* has been that the fee is divided 3 ways equally among (a) the candidate, (b) the Local Church recognizing the candidate as a Member In Discernment, and (c) the Association of which the church and candidate are a part. The candidate is responsible to contact the church and Association to request and arrange for payment. Associations are generally aware and prepared to make this contribution upon request. You should discuss the anticipated financial contribution with your church at the time you request In Discernment status with them. Not all churches are necessarily able to make this contribution.

**CONFIDENTIALITY. The contents of the report are confidential.** The counseling agency prepares the report in draft form and sends it to you. You then review the report in its entirety and may contact the agency, may ask questions, and request *correction to any errors of fact*. When you approve the report, you will be asked to sign a release so that it can be shared with the NCNC. At that point, you will receive a final copy and a copy will be sent to NCNC. It will be shared securely only with the COM co-chairs and the Conference Minister. A copy will be placed in your file and remains the property of the Conference. It may be reviewed by Committee on Ministry leaders or Conference Staff at a later date as it pertains to any issue with standing. The report is not printable from the electronic site.