

**Living Water ONE (Ohio NorthEast) Association  
Committee on Ministry Annual Report 2023  
Rev. David T. Hill, Chair**

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) held quarterly and special meetings via Zoom on December 1, 2022, and January 26, February 2, March 2, March 23, April 27, May 11, May 25 and September 7, 2023.

A primary responsibility of the CoM is examining candidates for ordination. During 2023, the following were **approved for ordination**:

- Dennis Landaw – St. Paul United Church of Christ (Navarre)
- Joy Fenton Jones – Pilgrim United Church of Christ/First Christian Church (Cuyahoga Falls)
- Rob Grow – pending call

It is our practice to hold brief interviews with clergy newly called to ministries in the Association to welcome and get to know them. We were pleased to become better acquainted with:

- Jess Peacock – Community Church of Chesterland

We conducted two Fitness Reviews. Both resulted in termination of standing.

Other responsibilities are carried out by three Working Groups which meet at least quarterly; some more frequently as needed. Their work during 2022-2023 included:

**DISCERNMENT OF CALL:** Discernment and formation of those responding to God's call to authorized ministry.

Discussed experiences and next steps:

- Dennis Landaw
- Rob Grow
- Katherine Chilcote
- Laura Hodges
- Joy Fenton Jones
- Bobby Burt
- Jen Bertoni
- Ryan Collins
- Sophia Hayden
- Ginger Bakos
- Claire Weihe

**CREDENTIALING:** Dealing with matters of standing and credentials for authorized ministers (ordained, commissioned, and licensed) currently in the Association as well as those wishing to move their authorization to the UCC from other denominations.

Granted or Renewed Licenses for:

- Steven Miller – St. John's United of Christ, Massillon
- Christy Thomas – St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Woodsfield (Pioneer Larger Parish)
- Ryton Wanton II (Jeremy) – Eastview United Church of Christ (Shaker Heights)
- James F. Shamel II – St. Paul's United Church of Christ (Port Washington)
- Sharon Bauman – Millheim United Church of Christ (Mogadore)

- Joy Fenton Jones – First Christian Church and Pilgrim United Church of Christ (Cuyahoga Falls)
- Carol A. Leahey – Bethany United Church of Christ (Cleveland)
- Nick Nicholson – Trinity United Church of Christ (Canton)
- Karen Brocco-Kish – Congregational United Church of Christ (Medina)
- Dr. Carl Pace – Zion United Church of Christ (North Canton)
- Edith (Edie) Rasell – Archwood United Church of Christ (Cleveland)
- Ryan Haines – [limited permission] Immanuel United Church of Christ (Clarington)
- Teresa M. (Terri) Reynolds – Pioneer Larger Parish
- David Brown – Trinity United Church of Christ (Akron)
- Jim Furry – West Park United Church of Christ (Cleveland)
- Dennis Coy – Congregational United Church of Christ (Canton)
- John Lawrence – Mt. Zwingli United Church of Christ (Wadsworth)
- Oliver Kling – St. John’s United Church of Christ (Massillon)
- Heidi Denman McDougall – Strongsville United Church of Christ

**OVERSIGHT:** Providing oversight for pastoral excellence by creating and offering professional development opportunities for all authorized ministers in required areas of Healthy Practices for Ministry, as well as assisting with ministry issues when asked.

- Provided a Situational Support Consultation for a congregation and recommended mediation. A mediator was then provided.
- Continued to address boundary issues involving retired clergy and their former congregations.
- Restored the full standing of an authorized minister who had been on an extended leave of absence.
- Revamped our approach to diversity training with a Healthy Practices event on “Cultural Humility” led by The Rev. Dr. James Knight (10/18/23). This program was well attended, enthusiastically received, and will be offered again in the spring of 2024. Other Healthy Practices offerings under consideration include: Handling Criticism, and Successful Post-Pandemic Ministry.
- Reviewed the situations of a few congregations that were closing/consolidating.
- Appointed a resource team to assist with any issues within local congregations that might arise during Nayiri’s sabbatical.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. David T. Hill, Chair