

**Living Water ONE (Ohio NorthEast) Association
Committee on Ministry Annual Report 2024
Rev. David T. Hill, Chair**

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) held quarterly and special meetings via Zoom on December 7, 2023, and March 7, June 6, June 27, September 5, and September 26, 2024.

A primary responsibility of the CoM is examining candidates for ordination. During 2024, the following were **approved for ordination pending call**:

- Katherine Chilcote
- Bobby Burt
- David Brown

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:

- Rusty Andrews, Conneaut Congregational UCC
- Monica Dawkins-Smith

One Fitness Review was initiated and remains in process.

Other responsibilities are carried out by three Working Groups which meet at least quarterly; some more frequently as needed. Their work during 2023-2024 included:

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

Discussed experiences and next steps:

- Danny DeMarco
- Jennifer Bertoni
- Katherine Chilcote
- Susan Lefelhocz
- Alisha Young
- Bobby Burt
- Heather Ferguson
- David Brown
- Katie Howe
- Kathlin McCann

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:

- Heidi Denman McDougall, Strongsville United Church of Christ
- Allan Lane, Richfield United Church of Christ
- Christy Thomas, St. Paul, UCC (Woodsfield/Pioneer Larger Parish)
- James Shamel, St. Paul's United Church of Christ (Dennison)
- Robin Stanley, Hartsgrove Community United Church of Christ (Rome)
- Carol Leahey, Bethany United Church of Christ (Cleveland)
- Ryan Collins, Clague Road United Church of Christ (North Olmsted)

- Michele Teague-Humphrey, Imani United Church of Christ (Euclid)
- Nick Nicholson, Trinity United Church of Christ (Canton)
- Carl Pace, Zion United Church of Christ (North Canton)
- Teresa Reynolds, Pioneer Large Parish (Monroe County)
- Dan Grimminger, Zoar United Church of Christ
- Karen Brocco-Kish, United Church of Christ, Congregational of Medina
- Oliver Kling, St. John's United Church of Christ (Massilon)
- John Lawrence, Mt. Zwingli United Church of Christ (Wadsworth)
- Vicki McGaw, Federated Church (Chagrin Falls)

Granted Ecclesiastical Endorsement:

- Brian Shields, VA Chaplaincy
- Vance Awa, APC and VA Chaplaincy

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 several Situational Support Consultations to congregations/pastors experiencing challenges/conflicts.
- Discussed a planned shift in the transition process in congregations regarding the availability of interim ministers and the use of consultants and designated ministers.
- Discussed churches that were facing particular challenges and those preparing to close/closing.
- Considered topics for future Healthy Practices events, including a follow up training with The Rev. Dr. James Knight (*Cultural Humility*, part 2).

Respectfully submitted, Rev. David T. Hill, Chair