

**Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast
Committee on Ministry Annual Report 2025
Rev. David T. Hill, Chair**

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) held quarterly and special meetings via Zoom on November 7, 2024 and January 23, January 30, March 6, April 24, June 5, September 4, and October 2, 2025

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

- Jennifer Bertoni
- Suzy Lefelhocz

Three Fitness Reviews were conducted. Two of these reviews were adjudicated; one remains incomplete due to the Minister in Question (MiQ) resigning their standing.

Other responsibilities are carried out by three Working Groups which meet at least quarterly; some more frequently as needed. Their work during 2024-2025 included:

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 or for:

- William M. Lyons, Ecclesiastical Endorsement
- Francis Miller, Lyndhurst Community of Faith (Dual Standing)
- Christy Thomas, St. Paul's UCC, Woodsfield
- Jim Shamel, St. Paul's UCC, Port Washington
- Ryan Collins, Clague Road UCC, North Olmsted
- Troy Smith, Pilgrim UCC, Elyria
- Brian Saxe, Bainbridge Community UCC
- Dillon Shipman, Plymouth Church, Shaker Heights
- Paul Richardson, Ecclesiastical Endorsement
- Nick Nicholson, Trinity UCC, Canton
- Terri Reynolds, Pioneer Larger Parish
- Karen Brocco-Kish, UCC Congregational of Medina
- Julie Western, First Congregational Church of Claridon, Huntsburg (Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing)
- Dan Grimminger, Zoar UCC
- Jason Stitt, St. Paul's UCC, Parma
- Sue Gochnauer, St. Peter's UCC, Apple Creek
- Pam Hahn, Chatham Community UCC
- Dwight Woodward, Newbury United Community Church

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

Discussed experiences and next steps:

- Kathlin McCann
- Danny DeMarco

- Suzy Lefelhocz
- Sophia Hayden
- Dillon Shipman

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.

- Gretchen Wagner – reinstatement of standing following a leave of absence
- Health Practices for Ministry: Pastoral Leadership and Self-Care in a Divided Time (March 2025)
- Healthy Practices for Ministry: Boundary Awareness Training 2.0 (October 2025)
- Situational Support Consultations
- Refinement and supervision of prescribed Program of Growth following a Fitness Review.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. David T. Hill, Chair