

Living Water Association, UCC
Committee on Ministry
Credentialing Working Group Notes
13 August 2020

Present: Pam Beck, David Durkit, Sam Greening, Jill Harkins Goodman, Sprite Johnson,
Nayiri Karjian, Patti Komperda

Opening Prayer: David

Jim Furry – West Park UCC, Cleveland; **Relicensed for 3 years**

Prayer: John

No note about continuing practice; particularly helpful through their last transition; little theological education other than a few NEOSOM courses; assists pastor who is satisfied with him; chairs Association Investment Advisory Team; Patti: gifts are more administrative and financial than “up-front”; what does “assistant to the pastor” mean? Whatever the pastor asks him to do (no particular designated responsibility), participated in services of worship, in charge when pastor is away, meet regularly; going reasonably well: on-line on Sunday mornings, food pantry is continuing, getting organized, and has expanded thanks to a grant, increased communications; not attended in wider-church meetings in the past few years – we are encouraging him to do so, as well as register for the upcoming Stewardship Festival on 22 Aug.; few young families in the church, mostly white, ave. attendance=71, social justice projects: food pantry, building open for organizations to use (AA, mental health, etc.), ONA; pastor began 13 May 2017 (still feels like the “new” pastor); soon to retire from financial planning [to do as volunteer rather than also get paid]; changes in the church: used to be more youth-oriented groups (Scouts, fellowships, etc.) which has changed the direction of the congregation; needs to attend a Healthy Practice [next one is 1 Oct. on digital church]

Dennis Coy – 1st Congregational UCC, Canton – **Relicensed for 3 years**

Prayer: Jill

Small church (but larger than the others in Canton); has good building; up to date with his Healthy Practice; UCC BoD & Cornerstone Fund BoD, including the audit committee; What is he dealing with in his Clinical Trauma course? – generally a certification for therapists & psychologists but this is specifically for clergy and pastoral care in dealing with trauma, especially pertinent for the pandemic & post-pandemic time; just began a new position on Monday as full-time Chief Risk Officer for a financial organization; did strategic planning last year after losing some families in the first few years of his ministry (prob with LGTBQ pastor) which removed some significant givers – annual strategic planning retreats so are now at the point of rethinking what came out of previous retreats – now must of the congregation participate in on-line giving (increase rather than decline during this COVID-19 time), increased open communication with the congregation (ex. quarterly

financial report) which has resulted in solid financial footing, significant increase in membership (refer others to this welcoming place worshiping on-line (& outside), but probably won't meet in person until Dec. or Jan. (when "the least of us" can be present); – have people in the congregation who monitor the COVID numbers for Stark and surrounding counties daily & 14-days; acquiring equipment to continue to stream worship; working with several other clergy to create an weekly evening Zoom sessions on various issues pertaining to the UCC, including identity, social justice, racial injustice, etc.; continues to feel called to this ministry, more than ever!; appreciates the continuing close contact of the Assn. with clergy

**italics – conversation prior to interview*

Next Scheduled Meetings
Credentialing: 10 September 2020
Committee on Ministry – 3 September 2020