

Living Water ONE (Ohio NorthEast) Association
Committee on Ministry Annual Report 2022
Rev. Doris R. Powell & Rev. Sam Greening, co-chairs

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) held quarterly and special meetings via Zoom on December 2, 2021 and February 3, March 3, June 2, June 23 and October 6, 2022.

A primary responsibility of these meetings is examining candidates for ordination. During 2021-2022, the following were enthusiastically **approved for ordination**:

- Matthew Hogue Smith – pending call
- Christina (Tina) Green – Fairport Harbor Congregational Church
- Sue Pray – associate minister at Middleburg Heights Community Church
- Brenda Waddell – pending call
- Leila Jindra – pending call

We held brief interviews with clergy newly called to ministries in the Association to welcome and get to know them:

- Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Pastor St. Peters UCC
- Elena Larssen, Minister for Volunteer Engagement, UCC national offices
- Mark Pettis, Manager for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, UCC national offices
- Matt Wooster, Senior Minister, Plymouth UCC, Shaker Heights

Each received a follow-up Thank You letter acknowledging their specific support needs.

At the October 6, 2022 meeting we voted to enter into covenant, at their request, with the Chicago Metropolitan Association to perform a fitness review including adjudication and overseeing the outcome. We approved the response interview team comprised of Rachel McDonald and Tim Paroz and the process guide as Brian Burke.

Other responsibilities are carried out by three Working Groups which meet at least quarterly; some more frequently as needed. Their work during 2021-2022 included:

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

- Discussed experiences and next steps:
 - Katherine Chilcote – CPE at Cleveland Clinic, current residence at the VA, sense of call to Chaplaincy. Seeking mentoring, her next step may include a supervised internship
 - Dennis Landaw – discussed his positive Wisdom Circle experience and plans to join the Heartland Conference disaster ministry
 - Brian Saxe – discussed his positive Wisdom Circle experience and work with churches in Bainbridge and Solon. Three units of CPE was recommended

- Robert (Bobby) Burt – discussed course work at Eden and continuing discernment of call
- Katherine Chilcote – explored her vision of joining art and religion to create sacred spaces
- Reviewed first draft of ordination paper, offering guidance: Dennis Landaw, Katherine Chilcote
- Approved the ordination paper and recommended to the full Committee on Ministry for ordination interview: Christina Green, Sue Pray, Leila Jindra, Brenda Waddell

The Working Group celebrated with committee member Luke Lindon that he successfully presented his doctoral dissertation and is now Dr. Lucas V. Lindon.

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 Privilege of Call:
 - David Anderson – at Paradise Church, Louisville
 - Allen Kahler – at Bethel UCC in Beloit
- Karen Brocco-Kish – Seeking first-time license for Medina UCC, asked to rewrite her over 10-year-old Faith Journey paper before pursuing licensure
- Sean Drummond – Ecclesiastical Endorsement regarding his call for chaplaincy
- Approved License/Relicense for Authorized Licensed Ministerial standing for:
 - Christy Thomas – 1-year License to serve 5 churches, Pioneer Larger Parish in Powhatan Point/Woodsfield
 - Jim Shamel – for first-time 1-year License to serve St. Paul, Port Washington.
 - Ginger Bakos – 3rd renewal of 1-year License at Bath Church, Bath
 - Joy Fenton-Jones – for first-time 1-year License to serve at First Christian Church (DOC/UCC) in Cuyahoga Falls
 - Vicki McGaw – renewal of 3-year License to serve Middleburg Heights UCC
 - Brian Saxe – renewal of 3-year License to serve Bainbridge Community UCC and Solon Community UCC
 - Troy Smith – renewal of 3-year License to serve Pilgrim UCC, Elyria
 - Nick Nicholson – for first 1-year License to serve Trinity UCC (Canton)
 - Betsy Wooster – for first 1-year License to serve Federated Church, Chagrin Falls
 - David Rogers – for 3-year License to serve St. John's UCC, Lorain
 - Karen Brocco-Kish – for 1-year License, with requirement for further education, to serve Medina UCC
 - Carl Pace – for second 1-year License to serve Zion UCC in N. Canton
 - Terri Reynolds – for third 1-year License to serve for Pioneer Larger Parish
 - Jason Stitt – for 3-year license renewal, St. Paul's UCC
 - Sue Gochnauer – for 3-year license renewal, St. Peter UCC, Apple Creek

- Dennis Landaw, a MiD moving to St. Paul UCC in Navarre – for 1-year license
- Judy Jones – for 3-year license renewal for Faith UCC of Brewster
- Conni McCambridge – reaffirmed continuing license until July 1st, pending retirement from Windham Congregational UCC

Decided to ask all applicants to submit a 2-page Faith Journey paper. Discussed sending a pre- or post-interview survey to enhance communication. Discussed models for pulpit supply based leadership and how to assist churches that transition out of operation.

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.

- Addressed three concerns raised by churches about their pastors/retired pastor member, discerning if any formal Situational Support processes are needed. Two were resolved. One church is still seeking an interim.
- Discussed overstepping of retired pastors in their current congregations and suggested offering/requiring a Leaving a Church workshop. A 4-part series from the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) has been identified and reviewed.
- Discussed retired clergy who self-identify as “exempt” from training events, yet continue to engage in public ministry. Consensus was to draft a clarified policy based on the new Manual on Ministry and a letter requiring all to reapply for exempt status. We believe only 12-15 will reapply. The active retirees will be subject to Healthy Practices.
- Planned Healthy Practices events during 2022:
 - 3/12 Diversity Training, Roberto Ochoa leading
 - 5/4 Clergy Burnout and Self-Care from the RMC series
 - 10/5 & 6 Position of Trust basic for all authorized ministers and MiDs (also 3/3 & 4, 2023)
 - 9/21 Healthy Pastoral Transitions for Retired & Retiring Authorized Ministers (also 2/6, 2023)
- Jim Cunningham offered to host a monthly retired ministers gathering for conversation and support. The first, held June 15, was well-attended and appreciated
- Voted to return Carla Wobschall of Powhatan Point to active status after a leave of absence
- Discussed the challenges of church mergers
- Discussed potential church closures and the formation of Lyndhurst Community of Faith Church, a merger of Lyndhurst Presbyterian and Faith UCC on Richmond Road

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Doris R. Powell, co-chair