To the Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ:

Greetings on behalf of the Committee on Ministry (CoM). It is our continued honor to serve this association and its ministers, churches, and members. The year that was 2026 has been one of deep work and reflection. I would like to take this opening of my report to you to thank each member of the CoM for their time, consideration, and wisdom. Without the depth and breadth of life and experience that fills this committee, our goals would be much harder to achieve.

For those who may be unaware, the CoM operates as smaller bodies we call "Working Groups", as well as meeting as the full assembly. Our three working groups are: Discernment, Credentialling, and Oversight. Each of these groups handles a different piece of our work, and so I will report statistics from each group for you.

The Discernment Working Group, which handles our Members in Discernment (MiD) program, has worked diligently over the past year. They have been walking with candidates for ordained ministry and helping to guide them through the process. This year, we have accepted three new MiD candidates into the process. We have also recommended three others to the full committee to be interviewed for ordination. As the roster stands, there are currently eleven MiD candidates working with our association.

The Credentialing Working Group deals with matters of licensure and endorsement for many of our leaders. Over the past year, they have worked to ensure that we have qualified leadership within the churches of our association. In 2026 the Credentialling Working Group renewed seven licenses for terms varying from six months to three years. They accepted four newly licensed leaders. They provided two Ecclesiastical Endorsements to chaplains in our association. Also, they welcomed one pastor of dual standing, and one Ordained Ministerial Partner into the association.

The Oversight Working Group continues to serve our ministers and our churches by providing support, training and guidance. This year, they have planned and provided the Healthy Practices for Ministry days, an opportunity for growth and continuing education. They have also overseen the implementation of two Programs of Growth for individual authorized ministers, one of which has completed their work. The committee has also provided four situational support consultations to help churches and pastors in times of concern.

Finally, I raise to you the work of the full CoM, which is where the work finds both its most prayerful and most Sprit-filled. The committee was able to hold their first meeting of the year as an "in person" gathering, which we have not been able to do for several years. From

worship, to our keynote speaker Anissa Glaser-Bacon, to breakout groups there was a wondrously collaborative Spirit that set the tone for our work this year. The CoM held three ordination interviews with candidates this year, on the recommendation of our Discernment Working Group, and all three were approved for ordination pending the receipt of a call. The CoM also worked diligently and prayerfully as we undertook and deliberated a fitness review for an authorized minister of our association. The outcome of that review was a "Conditional Affirmation of Standing with Program of Growth." Details of that determination can be found in the Manual on Ministry, under the "Fitness Review Outcomes" heading.

We thank the association for their trust in our work and pray that we continue to faithfully serve to build the church.

Yours in Christ's Service,



Rev. Earl Rogers
Executive Chair
Committee on Ministry
Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast