

## 2022 Annual Report of the Committee on Ministry (May 1, 2021 – May 1, 2022)

### **Our Responsibilities and Structure**

The Committee on Ministry (COM) strives diligently to nurture, support, and hold accountable the authorized ministers of the Minnesota Conference and those preparing for authorized ministry. COM is also charged with supporting the member congregations of the Conference and making recommendations to the Conference Board on congregations seeking to join the Conference.

COM's work occurs mostly through its three subcommittees: Discernment and Preparation for Authorized Ministry (DPAM), Subcommittee on Authorized Ministry (SAM), and Covenant (which sadly has no acronym). In addition, an Executive Committee meets in the months between COM meetings.

### **Our Accomplishments This Year: COM**

As the Registrar's Report indicates, COM has worked diligently in 2021/2022 undaunted by pandemic restrictions. While our subcommittees continued their assigned tasks, the full committee adopted guidelines for working with non-UCC churches who wish to explore the possibility of joining the UCC and assigned oversight of this process to the Covenant subcommittee. COM has also begun development of a set of best practices for clergy and congregations partnering in Four Way Covenants.

### **Our Accomplishments This Year: SAM**

SAM continued its ministry of authorizing and supporting our licensed ministers, welcoming clergy transferring into the conference, examining chaplain candidates for Ecclesiastical Endorsement, meeting with candidates for Dual Standing, and processing requests for Exempt Standing from clergy no longer engaged in authorized ministry. SAM has also worked on the implementation of the new Anti-Racism/Diversity training requirement for all authorized ministers in the Conference that was adopted by COM in 2021. This biennial requirement is in addition to the tri-annual Power and Boundary training requirement implemented a decade ago.

### **Our Accomplishments This Year: Covenant**

The Covenant subcommittee continues to re-imagine how its members can effectively and sustainably provide covenantal support for the Conference's authorized ministers. Covenant is also charged with providing oversight for the standing SSC/Response Teams that serve to provide in a timely fashion skilled resources for congregations and clergy experiencing conflict. This broadens the work of Covenant to include support for the churches of the Minnesota Conference as well as for the clergy.

### **Our Accomplishments This Year: DPAM**

In addition to its routine work of nurturing candidates for ordained ministry through the Member in Discernment (MID) process, DPAM developed standards for the Multiple Paths road to ordination. Multiple Paths, as presented in the 2018 UCC Manual on Ministry, establishes a preparation and formation plan for each MID that aligns with the Marks for Faithful and Effective Ministers and recognizes the breadth of a candidate's gifts and life experience.

### **Gratitude**

Finally, COM recognizes the service of its members who are terming off COM this year: Diann Anders, Diane Gardner, Glen Herrington Hall, Sandy Johnson, and Kay Welsch.