COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: OVERSIGHT
ANNUAL REPORT
October 2019 – August 2020

Transfers In Approved:

   Retired, participating at Cape Albeon
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Travis Winckler (December 2019) From Indiana/Kentucky Conference
   Pastor of Second Presbyterian, member of Pilgrim Congregational UCC
Sonja Williams (August 2020) From Florida Conference
   Dean of Students at Eden Theological Seminary, member of Christ Church UCC
Tony Coleman (August 2020) From Massachusetts Conference, Berkshire Association
   Associate Pastor at First Congregational UCC, Memphis

Four-Way Covenants Approved:

Chance Beeler
Travis Winckler

Privilege of Call Granted/Pending:

Jules Williams – Seeking Privilege of Call met in January 2020
   met in January 2020
Carrie Moore Black – Seeking Privilege of Call met in June 2020
   Supply Pastor of Second Congregational UCC Memphis

Seeking Dual Standing Granted/Pending:

Michelle Higgins – Seeking Dual Standing met in May, 2020
   Senior Pastor of St. John UCC Beloved Community

Transfers Out Approved/Pending:

John Kerr to Western Association, Illinois Conference
Heather Arcovitch to New Haven East Consociation, New England Southern Conference
Barbara Patten to Illinois South Conference
Holly Pederson to Minnesota Conference
Tyler Connoley to Central Pacific Conference
Steven Stark to Illinois South Conference
David Mehl to Providence Association, Southern New England Conference
Robert Walker to Evansville Tri-State Association, Indiana/Kentucky Conference
Lansford Lawrence to Houston Association, South Central Conference
Jeff Whitman to Mercersburg Association, Penn Central Conference
Randall Mullins to the Central Pacific Conference
Beth Causey to the Kentuckiana Association, Indiana/Kentucky Conference
Dale Bilbrey to the Southeast Conference

Exit Interviews Conducted:

Linda Stoecklin and Immanuel UCC
Steven Stark and St. John UCC (Manchester)
Kevin Anthony and St. John UCC Beloved Community
Licensure Concluded: Linda Stoecklin, Immanuel UCC (November, 2019)

Dual Standing Concluded:
   Kevin Anthony, St. John UCC Beloved Community

Approved for Ecclesiastical Endorsement as a Board Certified Chaplain:
   Carol Trissel
   Phyllis Long

Approved for Substitute Preacher List:
   Guangyu Lou
   MaryLin Hudson

Approved Change to Inactive Status at clergy request:
   Beth Meirath (August 2020)

Racial Justice and Equity Training Events:
   Planned Sacred Conversation on Race event to be led by Dr. Velda Love on October 9-10, 2020
   Recognized the following events as meeting the RJET criteria:
   - Witnessing Whiteness groups led by YWCA
   - Book Studies led by Ginny Brown Daniel:
     White Fragility by Robin Diangelo
     Me and White Supremacy by Layla Saad
     How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
   - Anti Racism Pro-Reconciliation Justice Training led by Disciples of Christ

Boundary Awareness Training:
   Led BAT event in March, 2020
   Virtual BAT training program is currently being planned for October, 2020

Informational Reviews:
   Coordinated Annual Clergy Information Review process with other associations
   Received and reviewed Annual Information Review reports from active and retired clergy and responded to their concerns/requests

Ministry Support for Chaplains:
   Did intentional outreach to Chaplains for support
   Planned summer gathering for Chaplains which had to be postponed due to COVID-19

Support for Retired Clergy:
   Planned an annual gathering for retired clergy which had to be postponed due to COVID-19

Support for Congregations requesting assistance
   Responded to requests from seven congregations and/or pastors for help with specific concerns

Fitness Review:
   Responded to a request for a fitness review. A program of growth is underway to support the pastor’s ongoing development.
Marks for Ministry:
The committee reflected on the Marks for Ministry in regular meetings and developed an interview guide to incorporate discussion of the marks in our clergy interviews.

Annual Retreat/Continuing Education:
In August the committee attended a retreat (along with members of the Committee on Ministry: Preparation and the COMs from Eastern and Western Association) to receive continuing education from our Cleveland-based Ministerial Excellence and Support and Authorization team (M.E.S.A.).

In conclusion, this was a full year for the Committee on Ministry: Oversight. All the committee members brought a love for the church and our pastors to our work. In addition to monthly half-day meetings, members devoted additional time every month to meet with pastors, listen to concerns of church members, celebrate pastoral beginnings/endings in worship, conduct exit interviews, review applications for standing or certification, and develop and lead clergy training events. Members attend an annual retreat for additional training to equip us to better serve the church.

We conclude the year with deep gratitude for committee members who gave so generously of their time and their spirits to contribute to the building up of the church, especially in these challenging times:

Mary Albert
Jan Barnes
Barb Biedenstein
David Gerth
Vicki Hampton
Keith Karau
Lillian Lammers
Ray Landis
Mary Morgan
Mark Robinson
Leon Sharpe
Alan Stevenson