Committee on Ministry:Preparation

St. Louis Association

2015 Annual Report

The Committee on Ministry, an Association committee granted authority in the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws for authorization and oversight of clergy and churches, has been divided into two entities in the St. Louis Association for practical reasons. With Eden Seminary in our association, the number of student candidates for ministry is much greater than in most associations. The Committee on Ministry:Preparation has responsibility for the preparation and authorization of Members in Discernment on behalf of the wider United Church of Christ.

The COM:P meets monthly. When a candidate feels called to authorized ministry and has the support of their local congregation, they meet with the COM:P and undergo a psychological evaluation. They become Members in Discernment (MID; formerly “In Care”). They are assigned an advisor from the COM:P and continue to meet at least annually with the committee until all the requirements have been met. They are approved for ordination pending a call and continue to meet annually with the COM:P until a call is received.

Significant actions during the past twelve months include:

* Shifting to Care and Counseling, Inc., for our psychological evaluation services
* Working with Eden faculty Leah Gunning Francis, new Dean of Students, about contextual education placements; and with Carol Shanks, Director of the UCC House of Studies at Eden, regarding closer connections with seminarians
* Staffing a conversation between Eden, Conference, and Association regarding issues of common interest
* Changing our policy to allow for the circulation of ministerial profiles before seminary graduation, if all other requirements for ordination are met
* Putting more of our official documents online
* Securing a psychological testing center in Memphis for MIDs who live there
* Participating in the Conference-wide Covenanted Committee on Ministry to better align our practices across all three associations of the MMS Conference
* Attending a retreat with colleagues from the other associations’ COMs
* Studying together the resources “Journaling the Marks for Ministry” and “Beyond Resistance” (Dorhauer)

Initial Interview

Laura Oesterle, St. Peter’s UCC

Phyllis Long, First Congregational UCC, Memphis

Austin McCandless, Calvary UCC, Overland

Current Member in Discernment

Chance Beeler, Epiphany UCC, St. Louis

Doni Driemeier-Showers, Samuel UCC, Clayton

Julie Hawker, Mt. Tabor UCC, St. Louis

Guangyu Lou, Samuel UCC, Clayton

Holly Pederson, Holy Trinity, Memphis

Felicia Scott, Pilgrim UCC, St. Louis

Tom Seat, Samuel UCC, Clayton

Cherie Stolze, Parkway UCC, St. Louis

Sonya Vann, Christ the King, Florissant

Licensed

Felicia Scott: Pilgrim UCC, St. Louis

Austin McCandless (Eastern): Faith UCC, Wentzville

Guangyu Lou, Samuel UCC. Clayton

Cherie Stolze (Illinois South Conference)

Approved Pending Call

Chuck Lindsey, First Congregational UCC, Memphis

Vicki Hampton, Kirkwood UCC

Jacquelyne Tyler, Christ the King UCC, Florissant

Ordained

Paul Porter

Amy Seat

Catherine Dixon

Dawn Martin

Matt Frierdich

Jan Barnes

Kara Reece

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Molsberry, co-chair

Committee Members

Kevin Cameron Paul Detrick (resigned) Barry Ellis

Dorothy Gannon Debby Harness Ron Hill

Mary Lin Hudson \*Bob Molsberry Janet Pillman

Ann Schroer Karen Tylka \*Jackie Wheelehan