

COM COVENANTED MINISTRY REPORT TO THE 2014 CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

The membership of the COM Covenanted Ministry is composed of the chair person and one additional member from each of; the Eastern Association COM, the Western Association COM, the St. Louis Association COM-Preparation and the St. Louis Association COM-Oversight Committees along with 3 at large members appointed by the Wider Church Committee of the Conference Council plus the Boundary Training Coordinator.

The responsibilities of the COM Covenanted Ministry are as follows:

- Provide opportunity for consultation, support, and sharing of best practices between Association Committees on Ministry.
- Planning and Leadership of the annual Committees on Ministry Retreat.
- Oversight of the Boundary Training Program.
- Yearly review and recommendations for the Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

We would next like to report on our major accomplishments over the past year.

We approved an exemption from Boundary Training for retired clergy and recommended adoption by all of our COMs. All COMs adopted the BT exemption (except St. Louis Association COM-Prep as they do not work with retired persons). We also voted to affirm the exemption and that it needed to be communicated to all retired ministers.

We also voted to send on the expanded requirements for privilege-of-call and dual standing that are in use in the St. Louis Association (above those in the Manual on Ministry) and recommended that they be adopted by Eastern and Western Association COMs. These were adopted by EA but not by WA. They felt those set forward by MOM met their needs.

We also approved some minor revisions to the Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines (we previously had approved a 2% increase). One change clarified the Boundary Training requirement for authorized ministers (including retired persons and members-in-discernment). Another change was to replace the maternity/paternity section with a family leave provision.

We received word that the Rickman Center, where we had held the COM Retreat could no longer honor our contract for the 2014 retreat. Our chair searched for alternate facilities to hold the retreat at. We obtained a proposal from Mo-Val and others contacted could not handle us at that time. We decided to move the retreat to Mo-Val.

Rev. Court Buchanan gave us notice that he had to give up being our BTC as he would be moving to NYC. We will greatly miss his loyal service in the past numerous years. The Rev. Bruce Moeller was chosen to replace him as our new BTC.

A Conflict of Interest Policy was adopted by the ministry and we voted to recommend that it be adopted at all levels. It needs approval by each COM and each Association Council prior to it becoming a policy. At this time all COMs have voted to adopt the policy as have the St. Louis and Eastern Association Councils. The Western Association Council (at this writing) has not met as yet, but our WA reps anticipate that the policy will be accepted.

We held a very good 2014 COM Retreat at Mo-Val on March 14-15. The program was led by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley of MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization) who did a superb job.

Committee on Ministry Covenanted Ministry Report

We had 26 participants and received training in Psychological Testing, Situational Support Consultations and Fitness Reviews, including Response Team Training. We were served by a very gracious Mo-Val staff, good food and we hope a good time had by all.

We also have started work on a Boundary Training for laity/churches. Our BTC along with several of others are doing research on this now and we hope to have a sample program designed soon.

Next year we plan to:

- We cannot imagine what issues will confront our COMs during the rest of 2014 and the first half of 2015, but you can be sure that we will be ready to address those issues in the best ways possible.
- We will plan and lead the 2015 COM Retreat. It will probably be held at Mo-Val but that is not certain at this time. It will most likely be based on a program topic deemed important by our ministry and appropriate by the MESA staff.
- We know that with our new BTC the program will continue to be improved and enhanced as it has in the past. We will continue to work on a laity/church BT program.
- We will review the Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines for both changes to amounts and wording. We may look at them conceptually.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Melissa Larson WA COM
Ron Wendle, Sect. WA At Large
Alvyne Rethrmeyer EA COM
Rev. Jeanne Lischer EA COM
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Rev. Bob Molsberry SL COM-Preparation
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