

COM COVENANTED MINISTRY REPORT TO THE 2018 CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

Purpose

The purpose of this covenanted ministry is to provide a forum for dialogue among the three Association Committees on Ministry (COM).

Membership

The Committee on Ministry Covenanted Ministry is composed of the chairperson and one additional member from each of the Association COMs, the chairperson and one additional member from the St. Louis Association COM Prep, and three at-large members appointed by the Wider Church Committee of the Conference Council plus the Boundary Training Coordinator.

Terms of Office

One at-large member is appointed each year to serve a three year term. At-large members may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Responsibilities

- Provide opportunity of consultation, support, and sharing of best practices between the Association COMs and the St. Louis Association COM Prep.
- Planning and leadership of the annual Conference COM Retreat.
- Oversight of the Boundary Training Program.
- Yearly review and recommendations for the Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

Accountability

This covenanted ministry is accountable to the Missouri Mid-South Conference Council through the Wider Church Ministry Committee. In relation to the COMs of the three Associations, it has no policy making authority, but rather functions as a forum for problem-solving, sharing best practices and making recommendations.

Staff Support

Primary staff support is provided by the Conference Minister.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Provided opportunities for consultation, support, and sharing of best practices between the Association COMs via ZOOM video meetings.
- Held the annual COM Retreat at Columbia UCC, Columbia, Missouri. Conference Minister, Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel, along with Rev. Nia Chandler, Minister of Authorized Ministry Development, led the retreat, which was focused on the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers.
- Boundary Awareness Training events were held in various locations across the Missouri Mid-South Conference. The registration process was streamlined using the Conference website. Our thanks to Rev. Mark Robinson for serving as the BAT Coordinator and working with Rev. Nia Chandler to streamline the promotion and registration process throughout the Conference.
- Conference Clergy Compensation Guidelines were adjusted to reflect a 2% increase in recommended annual clergy compensation.
- Sub-Committee was formed to produce a curriculum and identify trainers to lead Cultural Diversity Training, which is a new requirement for all authorized ministers and needs to be completed every three years. Training events have been scheduled utilizing Disciples of Christ resources until our Conference Team is ready to implement its own program.
- An alternative CPE program has been developed by Rev. John Allen and Associations are encouraged to utilize it in the development of individualized growth plans for Members in Discernment (MIDs).
- Boundary Awareness Training curriculum is in the process of being revised.
- Provided feedback regarding the new Manual on Ministry and its proposal to move from three forms of authorized ministry to one. Some sections of the new Manual on Ministry are ready to be used by COMs.
- Conversations have been held regarding the following topics: assessing ministerial competencies, boundary training topics, cultural diversity training, the new Manual on Ministry, the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers, CPE, and Installation services.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Poe, Chairperson (Member at-large)
 Karen Eck (Co-Chair, Eastern COM)
 Don Frandsen (Co-Chair, Eastern COM)
 Keith Karau (Co-Chair, St. Louis COM)
 Vicki Hampton (Co-Chair, St. Louis COM)
 Linda Stenger (Chair, Western COM)
 Tim Fairley (Rep., Western COM)
 Betsy Happel (Co-Chair, St. Louis COM Prep)
 Jack Nobles (Co-Chair, St. Louis COM Prep)

Karen Miller (Member at-large)

John Allen (Member at-large)

Mark Robinson (Boundary Training Coordinator)