

Committee on Ministry: Preparation
St. Louis Association
2016 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 (COM:P) 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 later undergo a professional psychological evaluation. Upon successful completion of this, they then become a Member in Discernment (MID - formerly "In Care"). They are assigned an advisor from the COM:P, continue their formative relationship with their home church and pastor -- and continue to meet at least annually with COM:P until all the many requirements have been met. They have an ordination interview and are 'approved for ordination pending a call'. They meet at least annually with the COM:P until a call is received. Then we have the privilege and joy of participating in a service of Ordination!

In addition to engaging in our ongoing relationships with our MIDs, during the past twelve months we have been:

- Establishing a rhythm with *Care and Counseling* (St Louis) and *Good Samaritan* (Memphis) for psychological evaluation of MID candidates and follow-up counseling as needed
- More intentional partnering with *SLA Committee on Ministry: Oversight*
- Updating and refining our many processes and practices
- Preparing all of our official documents for the SLA section of our Conference website
- Participating in the Conference-wide *Committee on Ministry Covenanted Ministry* to better align our practices across all three associations of the MMS Conference
- Representing our committee on the *St Louis Association Council*
- Attending a 2-day retreat with colleagues from the other associations' COMs
- Studying together the UCC resources *Beyond Resistance* (John Dorhauer) and "Journaling the Marks for Ministry"
- Having many conversations with the *Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization* (MESA) Team at the national offices of our UCC
- Working with the folks coordinating our denominational Data Hub for clergy
- Thinking outside the box with covenant partners in our ever-changing church

(Please see page 2 – our People Page!)

Initial Interviews – MID Status Pending

Phil Barbier, Hope UCC, St Louis
Austin McCandless, Calvary UCC, Overland

Current Members in Discernment

Christopher Czarnecki, Christ Church UCC, Maplewood
Doni Driemeier-Showers, Samuel UCC, Clayton
Phyllis Long, First Congregational UCC, Memphis
Laura Oesterle, St. Peter's UCC, Ferguson
Holly Pederson, Holy Trinity UCC, Memphis
Felicia Scott, Pilgrim UCC, St. Louis
Tom Seat, Samuel UCC, Clayton
Cherie Stolze, Parkway UCC, St. Louis
Sonya Vann, Christ the King UCC, Florissant
Andy Wilson, Parkway UCC, St Louis
Bella Winters, Epiphany UCC, St. Louis

Approved for Ordination Pending A Call

Chance Beeler, Epiphany UCC, St. Louis
Julie Hawker, Mt. Tabor UCC, St. Louis
Chuck Lindsey, First Congregational UCC, Memphis
Jacquelyne Tyler, Christ the King UCC, Florissant

Ordained in the last year!

Vicki Hampton, Kirkwood UCC, Kirkwood
Guangyu Lou, Samuel UCC, Clayton

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Cameron and Karen Tylka, Co-chairs

Committee Members

John Allen
John Gandy
Ron Hill
Janet Pillman

Kevin Cameron
Dorothy Gannon
Mary Lin Hudson
Karen Tylka

Barry Ellis
Debby Harness
Carolyn Mulhall