

Committee on Church & Ministry (COCAM A)
Report to 2023 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting
(January 2022 – December 2022)

Committee:

Rev. Brady Abel	Dr. Ray Littleford
Rev. Jim Alexander	Ms. Mary Martin
Rev. Lynn Brightman	Ms. Martha Phillips
Rev. Derrick Elliott	Mr. Stan Roberts
Rev. Dean Hokel, chair	Rev. David Stabenfeldt
Rev. Gail Joralemon	Ms. Chris Sternberg, Secretary

Report from the chair of COCAM A, The Rev. B. Dean Hokel

COCAM A, when fully staffed, comprises 12 clergy and laypersons from all areas of the Conference. The Associate Conference minister is designated to work most closely with the committee; the Conference Minister meets with and advises the committee as needed.

Our work includes all matters of oversight and authorization of ministers, the care and development of Members in Discernment, their Discernment committees, ordination determination and review of lay/licensed/commissioned ministers. In this work, we represent the entire UCC. When an issue arises between an authorized minister and a congregation, this committee determines whether COCAM-B is the appropriate site for a Situational Support Consultation or a Fitness Review is required of COCAM-A.

We take seriously our role in authorizing, supporting, and holding authorized persons accountable on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ. COCAM A had a busy year in 2022. It was the end of a five-year cycle for completion of four mandatory Boundary Training Modules and 6 hours of anti-racism class. Forty-Five active clergy had not completed their mandatory requirements. In January 2023, they were notified by United States Postal Service of the classes they were missing. Twenty-five percent of the letters were returned because ministers had moved and no one had notified the Southwest Conference. They were then notified by email. Twenty-five percent of those the email address was no longer active. They were then notified by telephone. Some of those were not working numbers. We tracked clergy down through churches, friends, and obituaries. This highlighted the importance of clergy informing the Conference office of changes in contact information.

COCAM A acted on behalf of the Southwest Conference and the wider church by taking the following actions:

- **Approved transfers to the Southwest Conference for:**

- Rev. Mel Hurst, from Southwestern Assoc., Iowa Conference (transferred with **Leave of Absence**)
- Rev. Karen Gatlin, from Northern Assoc., Southern Calif-Nevada Conference
- Rev. Kent Mosebach from the Northeast Assoc., Wisconsin Conference
- Rev. Myra Taylor, from the Chicago Metropolitan Assoc., Illinois Conference

- **Approved transfers from the Southwest Conference to:**
 - Rev. Dr. Cindy Parker to Living Water Assoc., Heartland Conference
 - Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams to Northeast Assoc., Vermont Conference
 - Rev. Carson Hawks to the Pacific Northwest Conference
 - Rev. Carol Reynolds to Northeast Assoc., Wisconsin Conference
 - Rev. Dr. Alberta Wallace to Eastern North Carolina Assoc., Southern Conference

- **Notices of Deaths of the UCC clergy:**
 - Rev. Dr. Fritz Hardt, died July 29, 2016
 - Rev. Glenn Wernecke, died September 1, 2016
 - Rev. John Thompson, died December 9, 2017
 - Rev. Charles Cooper, died Nov. 22, 2020
 - Rev. Frank W. Sherman III, died March 14, 2021
 - Rev. John P. Kohl, died Dec. 11, 2021
 - Rev. Henry Hansen, died April 3, 2022

- **Approved MID Status for:**
 - Rhonda Newby-Torres
 - ellie hutchison
 - Toben Squire
 - Clara Sims

- **Removed from MID status:**
 - Chris Wickersham

- **Approved Leave of Absence**
 - Rev. Dr. Larkin Rossitter

- **Approved for Exempt Standing**

Rev. Rudy Schnable	Rev. Dale Frank
Rev. Dr. Howard Schenk	Rev. Melvin E. Hurst Jr.
Rev. Robert Carlson	Rev. Dr. Steven Davis
Rev. Robert Bradstreet	Rev. Lewis Crawford
Rev. Dr. Ralph Earle	Rev. Howard Hinman
Rev. Don Arey	Rev. Jack Allen

- **Adjudicated a Fitness Review** referred to us from another conference and continue to monitor progress on plan of growth.

- **Approved for Dual Standing & Installed**
 - Rev. Johnson Jetton – Phoenix Marshallese Ministry

- **Approved renewal of Commissioned** status for Gordon Street III through May 2023

- **Approved Seeking Ordained Ministerial Partner status:**
Rev. Don Deweese
- **Approved resignation of standing:**
Rev. Nathan Watts
Rev. Judson Souers
Rev. Dr. Carrietta Jackson
- **Ordination:**
Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams, 3-way covenant, May 22, 2022
Rev. Carson Hawks, 4-way covenant, July 24, 2022
Rev. Kelly Kahlstrom, 4-way covenant, Oct. 9, 2022
- **Approved of new 4-way covenants:**
Rev. Lynn Holloway
Rev. Inga Detweiler
- **Policies**

COCAM A will accept independent study courses in History & Polity with Southwest Conference approved teachers for transfers or MIDs.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES FOR 2023:

5 years (2018)

The Rev. Jim Alexander

10 years (2013)

The Rev. Judy Green-Davis

20 years (2003)

The Rev. David Klingensmith
The Rev. Denise Thompson

25 years (1998)

The Rev. Lynn Brightman
The Rev. Dr. Joyce Buekers
The Rev. Karen Gatlin
The Rev. James Hogue
The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Lewis Sr.

30 years (1993)

The Rev. Dr. Tony Minear
The Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith
The Rev. William Utke

40 years (1983)

The Rev. James Clark
The Rev. Dr. Randi Walker

50 years (1973)

The Rev. Gary Bryant
The Rev. Carl Eschenbrenner
The Rev. Charles Lehman

60 years (1963)

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Earle

Submitted by The Rev. B. Dean Hokel
Chair, Committee on Church & Ministry A