

Committee on Ministry Policy & Procedure Updates May 2024

Eastside and Westside Committee on Ministry (COM) together have approved policy and procedure updates which will affect *all Ministers with Authorized Standing*, those wanting to become *Ministers in Discernment*, and those seeking *ordination*.

These policies and procedures go into effect May 1, 2024.

All Clergy with Authorized Ministerial Standing:

All Authorized Ministers (Specialized, Parish, Licensed, Commissioned, & Lay Ministerial Standing) are required each year to complete an *Annual Information Review (AIR)* sent to you by the Conference. (Exempt members must update their contact information yearly). Authorized Ministerial Standing clergy must attend the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference or be explicitly excused by the COM. They will be members of a local UCC. They must also take an authorized boundary training course and **an authorized Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training (DEI) once every three years.**

To return to Authorized Standing:

To return to Authorized Ministerial Standing from Exempt Standing or Leave of Absence Standing, the Minister must be up to date on the “every three years” requirement for Boundary Training and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings. They must also attend the Annual Meeting and submit their Annual Information Review.

Minister in Discernment (MID) Standing:

According to the 2018 Manual on Ministry a Psychological Evaluation (psych eval) & a Background Check must be completed before being interviewed by the COM to become an MID. The psych eval must be done by a COM approved psychologist. The cost of this evaluation will be shared equally by the person seeking MID standing, their local church, and the Conference Committee on Ministry. The candidate will pay for the background check.

MID path to Ordination:

There must be evidence of ongoing preparation and formation with reference to the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. The life experiences and background of each candidate for ordination will be considered in the creation of their path to ordination.

Dual Standing:

All candidates requesting Dual Standing must complete a Background Check. This Background Check must be completed as the first step in their Dual Standing process.

Transitions for Authorized Ministers:

To maintain standing in the Conference, upon leaving or changing any current position it is the clergy’s responsibility to contact the COM to have an exit interview. They will meet with their respective East or West COM.

*** Questions about policies and procedures can be directed to the PNC COM chairs or our PNC Conference Minister.