

Frequently Asked Questions

When should I contact the COM?

If there is a concern that you feel is not being resolved adequately at the local church level, then you should contact us.

Who should we contact on the COM?

Ideally your Chair (E or W) or the Conference Minister should be contacted.

Who should contact the COM?

Ideally it would be a leader of the congregation, such as: the church's Moderator.

What is the first step after contacting the COM?

The COM will take your concerns confidentially and seriously as we deserve how we might best respond.

Who will know that I have contacted the COM?

We will honor the confidence of any communication. Only COM members directly involved and, as needed, the Conference Minister will know.

What will the process look like?

Our goal is to facilitate healthy communication and to promote reconciliation and healing. Each situation is unique and will be handled as such.

(adapted from the Maine Conference UCC)

Contact Information

If you need assistance of the Committee on Ministry, please do not hesitate to contact us! We are here to support and hold accountable the Authorized and Lay Ministers of our Conference. We are glad to assist in sorting out questions, issues, or concerns from congregations or ministers..

Committee on Ministry

Rev Dr Cindy Bauleke

Westside Chair

cindybauleke@gmail.com

360-303-1941

Conference Staff

Rev Phil Hodson

Designated Conference Minister

phil@pncucc.org

765-532-3429

Arlene Hobson

Executive Administrator

arlene@pncucc.org

206-725-8383

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Committee on Ministry (COM)

Who we are and what we do?

Eastside COM: Alaska, North Idaho, Eastern Washington

Westside COM:
Western Washington

2025

Who We Are

The Committee on Ministry has the role of support and accountability of those seeking or holding standing in ministry. The COM attends to the operative covenantal relationships among those with standing, the Local Church, the ministry setting and the Conference. (Manual on Ministry p. 15)

In the UCC, *authorization for ministry* – determining who has the talents, experience and preparation to serve our churches and specialized ministries – is the responsibility of each Conference.

The Committee on Ministry guides individuals (Members in Discernment MIDs) as they prepare for Authorized (ordained) Ministry as well as those seeking Lay Ministry. COM works in covenant with all Authorized Ministers, whether parish or specialized. COM also has responsibility for approval of ministers from outside the PNC Conference seeking Transfer of Standing, Dual Standing, or Privilege of Call.

COM is comprised of clergy and lay. Both East & West, typically meet monthly, with additional meetings and preparation often necessary.

What We Do

We seek to equip clergy to minister to the best of their ability.

This is often joyful:

Supporting Members in Discernment on their path to ordination and those seeking to be Lay Ministers.

Ordinations, Installations and Farewell Services

Guiding chaplains seeking Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Other times it is challenging:

Fitness Reviews for ministers committing ethical violations.

Situational Support Consultations with ministers and/or churches seeking assistance with challenges.

Requirements for Standing

To maintain ministerial standing all Authorized Ministers and Lay Ministers must meet the following requirements:

Membership in a UCC Church

Attend the Conference Annual Meeting or request an excuse from a COM chair.

Complete and return the Annual Information Review Form

Boundary Training, approved by COM, once every 3 years.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Training, approved by COM, every 3 years

Services We Offer

Communities of Practice

Support Consultations

Scholarships

Exit interviews for those leaving their current ministry.

Assisting with 3 or 4 way Covenants between ministers, their workplace, their church and the Conference.

Interviews for ministers transferring into the PNC or seeking Dual Standing.

Guiding Members in Discernment to ordination.