

Upcoming Zoom trainings: In 2024, MESA will continue to offer Zoom trainings on topics of interest for Committees on Ministry, judicatory staff, and occasionally clergy who may not be serving on a COM. All trainings require advance registration; a confirmation email will then be sent to registrants with additional information. The trainings are listed below (and these trainings can be shared with Committees on Ministry and in Association/Conference newsletters):

[Thursday, April 25, 3:30 – 5:00pm ET Beyond the Marks: Supporting MIDs with Group Spiritual Direction, with the Rev. Dr. Renee Jackson, the Rev. Melanie Oommen, and special guest the Rev. Kendy Miller](#)

Supporting MIDs in their discernment process is one of the great privileges of serving on a Committee on Ministry. This session explores some creative ways to approach this ministry that go "beyond the Marks." The Revs. Renee Jackson and Melanie Oommen from the MESA Team will host special guest The Rev. Kendy Miller, Associate Conference Minister from the Tri-Conferences (Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota) who will share her learnings from providing Group Spiritual Direction with MIDs.

[Tuesday, April 30, 3:30 – 5:00pm Committee on Ministry Chairs and Leaders with the Rev. Melanie Oommen](#)

Are you a chair, co-chair, or team lead for your COM? You are warmly invited to join MESA Team Minister for Committee on Ministry Development and Leadership the Rev. Melanie Oommen for a time to learn, share wisdom, best practices and questions with other COM leaders. We will begin these sessions with an opportunity for leadership development on a topic pertinent to COM leadership and also have ample time to share your questions and ideas.

[Wednesday, May 8, 3:30 – 5:00pm ET, What New Ministers Need on Day One with the Rev. Jeff Nelson](#)

What do incoming ministers most wish they could know as they begin in a new setting? This webinar will be an exploration of documents, resources, and conversations that may best set up a minister for success, as well as how departing ministers, lay leaders, and congregations may participate in providing them to better ensure a good beginning.

[Wednesday, May 22, 6:00 – 8:00pm ET, Behavioral Covenants for Congregations with the Rev. Tara Barber](#)

All congregations have norms for how people treat one another, especially in times of conflict. Many of those norms are implicit, vague, or even unhealthy. However, there is

another way! Behavioral Covenants can provide an excellent framework for supporting communication practices, conflict resolution, and community norms. Developing such covenants within communities can help members and staff alike name best community practices and express their hopes for how congregations function as a Christian community. Join Rev. Tara Barber for a conversation on developing and implementing behavioral covenants with congregations.