



Committee on Ministry: Who Are We?

One of the issues addressed in the congregation workshop on September 24 was conflict resolution. One of the responsibilities of the Committee of Ministry (CoM) is conflict management. The CoM was organized about eight years ago by the Board of Trustees. It grew out of a concern that the congregation often evaluated its professional minister but not itself, implying that the minister was responsible for the success or failure of the ministry, and that the minister, and not the congregation, owned the ministry. Thus, was born our committee, which has a clear charter to help the congregation fulfil its mission.

A major focus for the committee has been to carry out the ongoing review of the minister and CUUC's four areas of ministry: Worship, Justice, Education, and Pastoral (congregation member) Care. These are the areas to which the CoM has devoted its time and attention since its inception. Part of the responsibility of CUUC's CoM is to initiate and oversee processes of reconciliation when there are conflicts between a CUUC member and another member, or a CUUC staff member, or the minister. The CoM does not carry out or perform conflict resolution but manages it. This was the focus of our work in 2021–2022 and will be explored in full in subsequent issues of the e-Communitarian newsletter.

The CoM also has the following responsibilities:

- Feedback. Carry out the ongoing review of the minister and CUUC's four areas of ministry: Worship, Justice, Education and Pastoral (congregation member) Care. Make recommendations from received feedback, and communicate key recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the congregation.
- Education. Make the congregation aware of our mission (brochures, orientations, newsletter editorials, worship services), and make the congregation aware of the responsibilities of the CoM.
- Consultation. Consult with the minister and leadership of the congregation. Specifically encourage the minister to establish annual goals; make recommendations to the minister in respect to enhancing the quality of his/her/their leadership; and encourage the Board of Trustees to review and provide constructive feedback to the minister on his/her/their goals and performance.
- Ordination of Ministers. Make recommendations on the ordination of prospective UU ministers, and authorize certain members to represent CUUC in officiating weddings and memorial services.

As described in the policy statement for the (CoM) the committee is to be comprised of six members each of whom will serve for three years (two new members are appointed each year). The members should consist of leaders from the congregation (e.g., former chairs of the Board of Trustees, members of the Board of Trustees, etc.). This year the members are Al Rocchi and Keven McGahren-Clemens (co-chairs), Steve Bear, Jim Cobb, Aimee Katz, and Ginny Strand.

Watch for more information on the CoM in November!