

## Unified Committee on Ministry (UCOM) South Central Conference, United Church of Christ

### What is being proposed?

The South Central Conference is proposing the creation of a **Unified Committee on Ministry (UCOM)**—a single, conference-wide body that will carry out the work of ministerial authorization, oversight, and church support on behalf of the Associations. This model is increasingly common across the UCC and helps ensure:

- **Consistency** in decisions and practices
- **Stronger training and support** for those doing the work
- **Shared leadership** across the whole Conference

### Why now?

Over the past year, this idea has been carefully explored through:

- Conversations with all current COM leaders
- Feedback at all four Association meetings
- A conference-wide retreat with COM members
- Multiple rounds of revision and discussion

**Result:** Every Association COM has **unanimously approved** this proposal.

### What will change?

- A **21-member Unified COM** will replace separate Association COMs
- Members will serve in **three areas of focus**:
  - Authorization (e.g., Members in Discernment, ordination)
  - Oversight (e.g., clergy standing, reviews, boundaries)
  - Church Support (e.g., new churches, congregational care)
- Members will be **equitably distributed across all Associations**
- Most work will be done **online**, with **annual in-person training and relationship-building**

### What stays the same?

**Associations are not going away.**

They will continue to:

- Build relationships among churches
- Gather for worship, learning, and shared life
- Host Ecclesiastical Councils and affirm new churches

This change allows Associations to focus more fully on **community and connection**.

### How will this affect relationships?

- UCOM members will be **geographically distributed**