Regional Commission on the Order of the Ministry (RCOM)

December 20, 2021

The RCOM has not fully formed as of this moment in time. A general description of the design has been included in this report. No lay members have been identified. All the Committees have continued to function.

The DMA is in the process of being reimagined and is now called Clergy Care, under the leadership of Rev. Rob Carr. The Ordination Committee has been under the leadership of Rev. George Flanagan, who is stepping down as the chairperson. Rev. Mark Harmon is providing leadership for the Standing Committee. Rev. Roger Beason is the Chairperson of the Commissioning Committee. Rev. Ron Bowen was chair of the Scholarship Committee, but he has relocated. Rev. George Flanagan is still chair of the Council on Pastoral Ethics.

We need leadership for the Scholarship and Ordination committees as well as the lay members of the RCOM.

I invite interested parties to contact me or Rev. Bill Rose-Heim.

ROLES WITHIN THE REGIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ORDER OF THE MINISTRY

- Ordination Committee – works primarily with ordination candidates
- Commissioning Committee – works primarily with candidates for commissioning
- Standing Committee – works on the administrative processes regarding recognition of ordination from another denomination with advice and consent of the Ordination Committee)/oversees standing renewal processes and requirements and makes recommendations to the RCOM
- DMA – (or its successor name) and focus on clergy peer gatherings/assimilating new clergy/chaplains/annual clergy retreat
- Council on Pastoral Ethics
- Scholarship Committee
- Seven at-large-lay members

The Regional Minister is a member, ex-officio with voice but not vote and serves as a liaison with the General Commission on the Order of the Ministry and the College of Regional Ministers.

The chair of the Commission is appointed by the Regional Moderator with the advice of the current RCOM for a term of 3 years, renewable once. The RCOM chair, once appointed, will recruit leaders for
Ordination Committee – works primarily with ordination candidates, oversees their
preparation and assures the RCOM when candidates are ready for Ordination
Commissioning Committee – works primarily with candidates for commissioning
Standing Committee – works on the administrative processes regarding recognition of
ordination from another denomination with advice and consent of the Ordination
Committee)/oversees standing renewal processes and requirements and makes
recommendations to the RCOM which has the final say on all matters regarding standing
DMA – (or its successor name) and focus on clergy peer gatherings/assimilating new
clergy/chaplains/annual clergy retreat
Council on Pastoral Ethics (see description below)
Scholarship Committee – oversees the process for applying for scholarships for
ministerial formation and/or continuing education from funds held by our Region
Six at-large-lay members

When leaders and lay members are recruited they will be presented to our Regional Executive
Committee for approval

MEETINGS

The RCOM meets at at least three times a year with one day being an all-day retreat of the RCOM where
we invite a member from GCOM to take part in the conversations that day.

Meetings can be in hybrid form, making use of audio and video technology for some or all members.

Additional meetings can be called by the RCOM Chair with seven days’ notice for special occasions –
such as acting on a recommendation for ordination or commissioning between regularly scheduled
meetings.

Humbly submitted,

Rev. James L. Vertreese
Chair RCOM