

Frequently Asked Questions

When should I contact the CCM?

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

Who should we contact on the CCM?

Ideally the Chairperson or the Conference Ministry Staff representative should be contacted.

Who should contact the CCM?

Ideally it should be a leader of the congregation, such as: the head of the Diaconate or the church Moderator.

What is the first step after contacting the CCM?

The CCM will take your concerns seriously and determine how we might best respond.

Who will know that I have contacted the CCM?

We will honor the confidence of any communication you have with the CCM to the extent allowed by law.

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.

Contact Information

Again, if you need the assistance of the CCM—or have questions about what we do—*please do not hesitate to contact us!* We are here for you and would be honored to assist you or your church in any way that we can.

CCM Membership:

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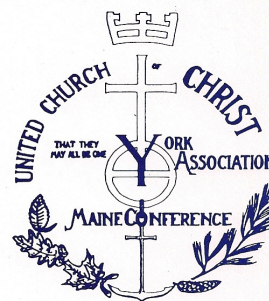
Rev. Diane Harvey

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York Association

Maine Conference

United Church of Christ

**The Committee on
Church and Ministry**

***Who we are and
what we do***

Who We Are

The Committee on Church and Ministry (CCM) is a group of clergy and laity of the York Association of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, responsible for authorizing and overseeing ministry and for the care and well being of our churches and clergy.

In our United Church of Christ, *authorization for ministry* – determining who is fit and prepared to serve our churches – is the responsibility of each Association. The Committee on Church and Ministry works with individuals on behalf of our local churches to make sure every candidate is properly prepared to serve among us. Authorization for ministry is granted by the Association when a properly prepared candidate is approved for ministry in our churches, and in the wider United Church of Christ, by an *Ecclesiastical Council*.

The group is comprised of six members (laity and clergy), as well as the Association Moderator, Vice Moderator, Scribe, and a representative of our Conference Ministry Staff.

We typically meet once a month to undertake our business, but often meet more often with individuals and local church committees as the need arises.

What We Do

The Committee on Church and Ministry works diligently to help the clergy and churches of our Association minister to the best of their ability.

Much of this work is joyful:

- Working with Members in Discernment (students and others discerning where God may be calling them to ministry) on their journey towards ordination, commissioning, licensure, or other service in the church.
- Planning Installation and Ordination services for clergy and churches.
- Informing churches of significant ordination anniversaries of their ordained leaders and members.
- Working with clergy and the Endorsement Office of the UCC to recommend endorsement for government chaplaincy positions.

Other tasks can be more challenging:

- Performing Fitness Reviews for clergy who may have committed an ethical violation.
- Performing Situational Support Consultations for clergy and/or churches who are experiencing difficulty in their ministry together.

Services We Offer to Clergy and Churches

- We conduct services of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning for clergy and leaders in our Association.
- We invite new clergy serving in the Association to meet with us to help get them acclimated with the York Association.
- We meet with Interim ministers serving in the York Association to learn how their ministry is going.
- We invite clergy leaving ministries in the Association to meet with us to talk about their experience serving here.
- We provide *Periodic Support Consultations* – “check ins” – with clergy to see how things are going and to offer any assistance we might be able to provide.
- We invite churches to meet with us, after hiring a new pastor, to set up a service of Installation.
- We make ourselves available to meet with leaders of churches which might be struggling with their pastoral leadership, or facing other challenges that they do not feel they can handle alone.