

Issue 117
August 2011



United Church of Christ

Parish Life & Leadership

A monthly publication for conference/association/seminary staff and Committees on Ministry

It's Official (the changes in terminology arising from the Ministry Issues Pronouncement)

History

Delegates to the Twenty-fifth General Synod meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in 2005 adopted the Pronouncement, *Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church* which broadened the paths to ministry in the UCC. Over the next four years a Ministry Issues Implementation Team and the Parish Life and Leadership Team of Local Church Ministries worked with the various settings of the Church to enact the Pronouncement. Included in this preparation was the drafting of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws enabling the changes brought by the Pronouncement.

The amendments were brought before delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan and they were adopted on Monday, June 29, 2009. The Constitution requires that amendments to it must be ratified by two-thirds of the Conferences of the United Church of Christ, and that none of the related amendments to the Bylaws may be declared in force until the amendments to the Constitution are ratified.

By November 2010 the necessary two-thirds of the Conferences had ratified the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and on Friday, March 18, 2011 the Executive Council, acting as the General Synod ad interim, formally declared the 2010 Edition of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ in force. No Conference that considered the issue failed to ratify the amendments.

Terminology

All settings of the church may now officially replace new language for old. The main changes include: replacing "recognition" with a **"covenant of mutual accountability"** to refer to the relationship between a minister and the Association; replacing "student in care" with a **"member in discernment"** to refer to a UCC member exploring a call to ministry; and using **"authorized ministers"** for all commissioned, licensed, and ordained ministers who have standing in an Association.

Parish Life and Leadership encourages you to start using these new terms if you have not already done so.

Barbara Blodgett
blodgett@ucc.org

Issue 118
September 2011



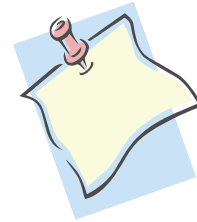
United Church of Christ

Parish Life & Leadership

A monthly publication for conference/association/seminary staff and Committees on Ministry

Committees on Ministry Take Note

In years past, ministers ceased to be Licensed or Commissioned at the time they ended their ministerial service, including those who retired after many years of service. With the Bylaw changes affirmed by the Conferences over the past two years, it is now an option for an association to recognize someone as a Retired Licensed Minister or Retired Commissioned Minister of the Association. It's recommended that this be determined on a case by case basis. (See Bylaws 141 and 146.)



Christy Trudo
trudoc@ucc.org

www.ucc.org/ministers/index.html