

Church and Ministry Council Report

The Church and Ministry Council is dedicated to supporting the essential work of the Association Committees on Ministry. Our meetings provide an excellent opportunity for sharing the challenges that our Ministry Committees face and applying the collective wisdom of dedicated colleagues, lay and ordained, within our Conference. Serving on the Council is both educational and inspirational as we tackle the issues facing the church now and as we move together into the future. I lift up two issues among many as highlights:

--Guiding **Members in Discernment**, those who are exploring a call to authorized ministry, is a vital responsibility of Ministry Committees. In the past year this responsibility received a great deal of the attention of the Church and Ministry Council. Every effort is being made to make the process for Members in Discernment one that will yield the best leaders for the church while helping each person grow in faith. An excellent document to support this process has been developed and made available to all our Association Committees—**Ministry Formation Plan in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference United Church of Christ for Members in Discernment**.

--Supporting the **continuing education of authorized ministers** has been lifted up as essential for the health and vitality of our ministers and our churches. To this end the Council has been working on a document to support our Ministry Committees as they encourage colleagues to seek the best continuing education opportunities and document those learnings. Of equal importance is encouraging our churches to fully support the continuing education of their ministers.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Dean of the Church and Ministry Council.

Rev. Dr. Kris A Hayden