



**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC)  
Life Long Learning/Continuing Education Policy**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God –what is good, acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12: 2 (NRSV)*

*I will seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and the practice of ministry through intentional continuing education, study, and devotional life. -- UCC Ministerial Code of Ethics*

In the UCC, we value and require an educated clergy. It's been part of our DNA through all our predecessor bodies and that continues today. We encourage clergy to keep informed, to be well read, to commit to their own program of life-long learning and continuing education.

The ethical and professional practice of ministry is an art. And like most professional arts, the best practitioners regularly seek educational opportunities so as to always improve their practice of ministry.

The expectations proposed by this document are designed to:  
cultivate an expectation of, and a culture of, pastoral excellence among all authorized ministers serving in PSEC.

- encourage authorized ministers to continually improve their practice of ministry
- prevent potential ethical breaches and/or pastoral abuse
- educate all PSEC ministers about the sometimes changing legal and ethical requirements they are expected to uphold as ministers
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These expectations are fulfilled on a three-year cycle. Clergy entering the Conference through transfer of standing must complete the boundary training portion of that requirement within one year of their transfer, and are required to renew that training on a three-year cycle.

Continuing Education Expectation for Authorized Ministers and Members-in- Discernment:

1) 6 hours in pastoral ethics

An exception is made for clergy who have completed the basic boundary training in this Conference. In this case shorter renewal trainings, covering advanced topics, may be offered by the Conference to fulfill this expectation. It may be fulfilled for those Authorized Ministers in specialized ministries by professional boundary training offered by other professional organizations.

2) 40 total contact hours every three years (20 hours for Part-time ministers).

The selection of course work is determined by each individual but should have some direct application to improve the practice of ministry as guided by the Association COM.

Examples of Continuing Education include (but are not limited to): Workshops at Association, Annual Conference and National Synod Meetings; Courses and workshops at local seminaries and colleges; online leadership courses; community workshops/lectures; clergy retreats.

[A **contact hour** consists of 50-60 minutes. A CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU) consists of ten (10) contact hours/credits.]

Completion of continuing education expectations will be part of the Periodic Support Consultations conducted by the Association Committees on Ministry

*It is the responsibility of authorized ministers to report, with documentation, the completion of continuing education events to their Association Committees on Ministry and to maintain a career long file of that documentation.*