

Church and Ministry Council Annual Report 2024

- Every meeting included an update on the Keystone Project.
- The Council affirmed that the Conference Minister and Associate CM for Search and Call have the authority to retract materials or refuse to send materials for non-UCC clergy when red flags are present.
- Committee on Ministry training was offered on Thursday June 27 via zoom.
- The Council decided to continue the meetings via zoom with one hybrid meeting in June and the December meeting over lunch in person.
- Antiracism Training offered by the Southern New England Conference was approved as fulfilling the requirements for Diversity Training. The additional hours beyond the 3 hour Diversity Training requirement will count toward continuing education.
- The Council read and discussed during the August, October and December meetings, the Manual on Church that is to be affirmed at General Synod in 2025.
- Kelly Malone from Schuylkill Association and Rev. Dr. James Mills from Ursinus Association were appointed to serve on the Ethics Committee.
- Dr. Dennis O'Hara, president of Physis Associates joined our August meeting to explain more about the Physis testing for Members in Discernment.
- The Council made two recommendations to the Keystone Group about the changes to the Call Agreement Paperwork: 1) Parental.leave.for.all.clergy.for.78.weeks 2) Brea.explained.that.there.was.a.situation.about.six.years.ago.where.a.pastor.resigned.and.then.the.church.leaders.decided.to.terminate.them.effective.immediately.so.that.the.pastor.would.leave.immediately.and.the.church.would.not.need.to.pay.them; This.left.the.pastor.with.out.benefits.or.income.with.no.notice;. Following.this?the.PSEC.Church.and.Ministry.Council.amended.the.language.used.for.termination.in.Call.Agreements.so.that.in.advance.it's.determined;how.much.notice.a.pastor.needs.to.give.the.church.of.resignation?how.much.notice.a.church.needs.to.give.a.pastor.of.termination?AND.how.long.the.church.needs.to.pay.the.pastor.after.they've.decided.to.end.the.call;
- On two dates the chairs of COMs across the State met to discuss best practices and streamlining processes.
- All year we continued to discuss COMs and possible changes with the forming of the Keystone Conference.
- We informally decided to maintain the dean and COM officer positions for another year as we move into the transition period in 2026, pending Synod approval of Keystone Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Suzanne M Spaulding, Dean