

Church and Ministry Annual Report 2016:

I hope you will look up a couple of the members of your Church and Ministry Committee and thank them for the hundreds of volunteer hours they willingly spend in preparing, licensing, encouraging, ordaining, and authorizing women and men for ministry. I want to extend my special thanks to the Rev. Darryl Kistler—Chair of Section A, the Rev. John Whitacre—Chair of Section B, and the soon to be Rev. Santina Poor—Chair of Section C for their commitment and dedication. Thanks also to Rev. Mary Sue Brookshire—our Vice Chair and to Rev. Ross Putnam—who has served as chair of Section C last year and part of this year. All of us on the Church and Ministry Committee owe a profound debt of gratitude to Vicki Holland as the Association Office Manager, who supports, encourages, and enhances all that we do.

The most significant issue that has occupied our committee's attention this year (beyond the ordaining and licensing of qualified ministers) has involved the working out of a flexible and equitable process for **setting a minimum standard for continuing education for ministers as a part of their standing with our Association.** We live in a time when the culture, the church and ministry itself are in the midst of rapid change. Continuing Education is a professional necessity for authorized ministers and others serving the church to further develop leadership skills, and to continue to grow intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

However this same changing landscape of ministry also requires a compassionate flexibility when it comes to requiring higher standards for those authorized to serve Christ in their various cultural, social, and economic circumstances. It is for this reason that we are proposing to you a graduated approach to implementing these standards for our Association. This graduated approach will include five (5) hours of CEU's for 2017, ten (10) hours for 2018, and fifteen (15) hours of CEU's for 2019.

Since the Association is the Body that establishes standing for individuals in ministry we will exercise that authority to determine what does and does not qualify as a CEU. Special consideration will be given to exploring alternative approaches to CEU for those bi-vocational ministers who are currently working in part-time or full-time secular positions. The CEU involvement of each authorized minister will be listed on the annual association information form. In order to encourage participation in Association, Conference and General Ministries of the church, we will also grant continuing education credits for attendance at the following:

- Association Meetings: At a rate of 1.5 hours of CEU credit per meeting.
- Annual Gathering: At a rate of 2.5 CEUs per day. In other words, attendance at a full Annual Gathering will be equivalent to 5 hours of CEU credit.
- Boundary Training: At a rate of 1 hour per workshop beyond required Sexual Ethics, Parts A&B.
- General Synod: At a rate of 8 hours of CEU credit for the event.
- Workshops and assemblies sponsored by the Christian Disciples of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America, will be credited as per the practices of those denominations.

- Any other workshop that could be applied to the performance of ministry: 1 hour of CEU credit per contact hour.
- Training events and conferences for Association, Conference, and Denominational positions: At a rate of 1 hours of CEU credit per contact hour.
- Clergy Community of Practice facilitated meetings (as administered by the SCNC or the UCC): 1 hour per meeting.

By March of 2019 fifteen (15) HOURS OF CEUs (Continuing Education Units) per year will be the minimum standard of continuing education for all Authorized Ministers (except retired Omega ministers) to maintain standing in the United Church of Christ, Southern California Nevada Conference.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Dave Shaw,

Chair of the SCNC-UCC Church and Ministry Committee