



# Ordained Ministerial Standing - **ACTIVE** in the Southwest Conference

## From the 2018 UCC Manual on Ministry, pp.52-53

*Ordained Ministerial Standing is a mutual relationship with defined systems of support and accountability that the Ordained Minister and [Conference acting as an] Association engage together. This relationship promotes an Ordained Minister's ongoing development in the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers and their faithful adherence to the UCC Ministerial Code. Associations have the responsibility of providing ample and diverse opportunities for their Ordained Ministers to meet the obligations of Ordained Ministerial Standing, which include but are not limited to:*

- ✓ *continuing education;*
- ✓ *diversity and anti-racism training;*
- ✓ *boundary awareness training;*
- ✓ *participation in processes of oversight;*
- ✓ *regular participation in the life of the Association and Conference.*

*Ordained Ministers, unless they have been granted Leave of Absence or Exempt Standing, must meet their Associations' requirements for ministerial standing. Ordained Ministerial Standing includes voting privileges in the Association and Conference where the Ordained Minister holds standing....*

*Anyone with ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is obligated to meet the requirements of standing and to engage the processes of support and accountability even when a Three- or Four-Way Covenant is not engaged, regardless of whether they are employed, professionally retired, or between calls.*

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The requirements of active ordained ministerial standing in the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ are the following (based on the above criteria from MOM)

### ❖ **CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

**12 hours per year.** It may include anything, beyond your ordinary scope of work, that enhances your professional ministry – though it does not need to be overtly religious or pastoral in content. (i.e. workshop, seminar, training session, book study *group*, study done to develop a new program – not a sermon series, but educational or mission/outreach program). Learning opportunities sponsored by the SW Conference that can count are: educational trainings for the Mission and Church Vitality Committee, and the educational pre-event held before Annual Meeting, and others that may occur. You may not count Healthy Ministry Modules, six hours of racial justice training, or the Clergy Retreat as continuing ed. You are encouraged to save documentation of your participation of education sponsored by organizations outside the Southwest Conference which we would not have a record of (i.e. a certificate of completion, receipt, or simply take a brief letter with you for the leader to sign indicating you have completed the event, including the number of hours.) You may keep track of your own documents or email them to the Associate Conference Minister. Please record them on your Annual Clergy Review.

### ❖ **BOUNDARY AWARENESS and RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING:**

In the Southwest Conference, we hold regular three-hour HEALTHY MINISTRY MODULES annually for Clergy Ethics and Boundary Awareness training.

- Each module needs to be taken ONCE WITHIN OUR UNIFIED FIVE-YEAR CYCLE. Everyone is on the same 5-year cycle. The beginning of each cycle is in years ending in “3” and “8” (i.e. 2023, 2028 etc.)
- Modules can be taken in any order.

Our current 5-year cycle began in 2018 and will end in Dec. 2022. If you took boundary and racial justice training anytime between 2013-2017, you must take the Healthy Ministry Modules at some point before the end of 2022. Everyone must also have taken an approved Racial Justice education experience between 2018 and 2022.

## **The 2021 schedule for Healthy Ministry Modules :**

***(We will continue during 2021 to offer all modules via Zoom. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER. The links will be published on [www.swcucc.org](http://www.swcucc.org) )***

### **ALTERNATIVE Module 1: RETIRED: Wed. July 7, 1-4 pm AZ / 2-5 pm NM & El Paso**

We have **Alternative Module 1: RETIRED**, for those who are maintaining active standing, yet are professionally retired, OR anticipate retiring within the current 5-year cycle. All clergy with active standing are required to do all Healthy Ministry Modules, but if clergy are retired or anticipating retirement, they take the alternative Module 1 *rather than* the regular Module 1. This module continues to deal with power and vulnerability, particularly as it relates to retirement; it also deals with changes in identity, purpose and meaning, and managing new covenantal relationships and ministerial tasks in retirement.

### **MODULE 1: Intro and Theology of Boundaries, Power & Vulnerability:**

**Wed. Sept. 8, 1-4 pm AZ / 2-5 pm NM & El Paso**

### **MODULE 2: Interpersonal Relationships: Thurs. Oct. 7, 1-4 pm AZ / 2-5pm NM-El Paso**

### **MODULE 3: Work, Time, Resources: Tues. Nov. 16, 1-4 pm**

### **MODULE 4: Technology and Social Media: Wed. Dec. 8, 1-4 pm**

*These modules will again be offered in 2022 before the end of the cycle.*

**RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING:** All active clergy are required to engage in **at least 6 hours** of a racial justice training of their choice with the 5-year cycle. You must be a participant (not a facilitator), it must have a spiritual component or sponsored by a religious organization, seminary, or judicatory. Questions and approval can be asked to the Associate Conference Minister. ***You must also send proof of completion to her.***

### **❖ PROCESSES OF OVERSIGHT:**

- Create and keep your personal **SWC portal account** up to date.  
<https://swcucc.z2systems.com/np/clients/swcucc/login.jsp>  
This is the online location where all registrations to events will happen, including boundary training, where primary biographical and contact information is stored to aid in communication with you; you can upload documentation on continuing education events you attended, donations are recorded, etc. This platform serves as our primary record-keeping and management tool for all members of the Southwest Conference. Please contact us if you have trouble with the portal, or need assistance of any kind.
- Filling out the **Annual Clergy Information Review** online through your SWC portal (the review information is usually collected in January and February).
- Participating in a **situational support consultation and/or fitness review** if required.
- **Notifying the Conference Office of any changes** in your status or information, and request for transfer.

### **❖ KEEPING COVENANT WITH OTHERS IN THE SW CONFERENCE:**

Generally, we expect regular attendance at Conference events (recognizing there are occasional limitations of schedule and funds, but lack of participation on a frequent or consistent basis will be questioned). This includes the **annual Clergy Retreat** in October/November, the **SWC Annual Meeting**, **attendance at ordinations and ecclesiastical councils** within your geographic area. This also may include **service on a Conference board, committee, or camp** periodically.

***You are responsible for maintaining your own standing.***

***If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:***

***Rev. Dr. Barb Doerrer-Peacock, Associate Conference Minister.***

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