

Committee on Church & Ministry (COCAM A)
Report to 2024 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting
(2023 COCAM A Actions)

Committee:

Rev. Brady Abel
Rev. Jim Alexander
Rev. Lynn Brightman
Rev. Derrick Elliott
Rev. Dean Hokel, chair
Dr. Ray Littleford
Mrs. Mary Martin, Secretary
Mrs. Martha Phillips
Mr. Stan Roberts
Rev. David Stabenfeldt
Rev. Myra Taylor
1 vacancy

Report from the chair of COCAM A, The Rev. B. Dean Hokel

COCAM A, when fully staffed, comprises 12 clergy and laypersons from all areas of the Conference. The Associate Conference minister is designated to work closely with the committee; the Conference Minister meets with and advises the committee as needed.

Our work includes the care and development of Members in Discernment, their Local Church Discernment committees, ordination determination and review of licensed/commissioned ministers. In this work, we represent the entire UCC. When an issue arises between an authorized minister and a congregation, this committee determines whether COCAM-B is the appropriate site for a Situational Support Consultation or a Fitness Review is required of COCAM-A.

We take seriously our role in authorizing, supporting, and holding authorized persons accountable on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ. The following actions were taken.

Acknowledging Clergy Deaths

Rev. Kent Mosebach, Church of the Painted Hills. January 3, 2023
Rev. Susan Martin, Casa Adobe. June 3, 2023
Rev. Carl Schroer, Rincon Congregational. June 19, 2023
Rev. Clint Reynolds, Church of the Palms. October 30, 2023

Approved Transfers In

Rev. Louis Mitchell, from the Hampdon Association, New England Conference. March 14, 2023
Rev. Anna Taylor-Sweringen, from NY Metro Association of NYCUC. April 11, 2023
Rev. Laura Loving, from SE Association Wisconsin Conference, May 10, 2023

Rev. Patty Ebner, from the Florida Conference. May 10, 2023
Rev. Alvin Walker, from the Florida Conference. October 11, 2023

Approved Transfers Out

Rev. Jayne Hubbard, to Southeast Conference, February 14, 23
Rev. Victoria Ubben, to SW Association of Wisconsin Conference. August 8, 2023
Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons, to Living Water Association, Hearland Conference. December 12, 2023

Approved for Ordination

Rhonda Newby-Torres, September 17, 2023
Clara Sims, October 11, 2023

Approved continuation of Commissioned Standing for

Gordon Street III

Approved Request for Exempt Standing

Rev. Melvin Hurst, Jr.
Rev. Steven Davis
Rev. Lewis Crawford
Rev. John Allen
Rev. Howard Hinman
Rev. Francis Rath
Rev. James Clark

Approved Request for Resignation of Standing for

Rev. Judson Souers
Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson
Rev. Bethany Meiers-Evans

Approved Suspension of Standing for

Rev. Kyle Kneen
Rev. Julian Phillips
Rev. Elizabeth Youngberg
Rev. Mitzi Eiltz
Rev. Bernard Backman
Rev. Judy Green-Davis
Rev. Dennis Copen

Approved Termination of MID status for

Rev. ellie Hutchison

COCAM A welcomed The Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins as Interim Conference Minister, Supported the Rev. Dr. Barb Doerrer-Peacock as she transitioned into retirement, continued to follow the progress of a plan of growth for a clergy from another conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Dean Hokel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

B. Dean Hokel

COCAM A, Chair