

Spring 2026 Metro Association Committee on Ministry Report

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion..."
—*Philippians 1:6a*

The Committee on Ministry greets the churches and ministers of the Metropolitan Association in Christ's love.

These past months have been marked by shifting resources, evolving responsibilities, and transitions to new ways of organizing and serving the Association's needs. We continue our conversations with ministers and MIDs, listening to what's happening in their communities, and staying faithful to a call that doesn't break when the world gets... *complicated*. Hearing what God is stirring in the lives of our people and their congregations is a privilege, and we are grateful to serve alongside such faithful people in such a demanding time.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND MINISTERIAL STANDING

Since the Spring 2025 meeting, COM has acted on several important matters:

Received transfers of Standing into the Metropolitan Association for **Peter Cook, Prabhu Sigamani, Ron Cosgrove, Leah Fowler, Richard Denuyl, and Natalie Owens-Pike.**

Facilitated the Transfer of Standing out of Metro to other Associations for **Rev. Ruth Shaffer** and **Rev. Patrick Duggan.**

Approved Dual Standing for **Rev. Carlos Lara.** Began a process for Dual Standing for **Rev. Conrad Tillard;** this process is currently on hold.

Received **Franklin Wilson** as a Member in Discernment and released **Amy Harbo** and **Jerry Greene** from the MID Process.

Celebrated the ordination and installation of **Rev. Mark Davies** at Church in the Highlands.

Voted to affirm **Rev. Meghan Janssen's** application for ACPE Educator Candidate status.

Granted **Vanessa Pugh-Reefer** LMS at her new ministry setting, Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church.

Approved and scheduled **Rev. Prabhu Sigamani's** Installation and invited the Association to celebrate it with us on April 26 at 3 PM, Bethany Congregational Church.

Approved **Macky Alston** to progress toward Ecclesiastical Council, scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 6 PM, on Zoom.

COM chairs met with or consulted approximately 10 individuals regarding authorization; all have been advised of next steps. We also meet regularly with individuals in our churches facing difficult situations.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Voted to affirm **Rev. Rebecca Pridmore** in taking on the role of co-chair alongside **Rev. Emily Brown**.

Called and welcomed a new Registrar, **Rev. Michael Junkroski**.

Affirmed a simplified BAT system: first-time BAT attendees will now take a slightly expanded version of Basic BAT instead of Basic BAT immediately followed by Refresher BAT. Ministers who have previously taken BAT will continue to take only Refresher BAT.

As required by our new bylaws, we approved new standing requirements for clergy in the Metropolitan Association. *Standing Requirements attached to this report.* We are working now on a plan to communicate these changes and complete the Annual Information Review.

Lynn Sullivan completed her term on the NY Conference Commission on Ministry and **Barbara Senecal Davis** was appointed by COM as our new representative to that body.

Began implementing a new database system and continue to refine our management of clergy and church contacts and documents.

We ask for your ongoing prayers for our MIDs, authorized ministers, and all those discerning a call to serve the church, that their ministries—and all our ministries—may bear witness to Christ’s radically transformative love in a hurting world.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Emily M. Brown, Co-Chair

Rev. Rebecca Pridmore, Co-Chair

Rev. Michael Junkroski, Registrar

Committee on Ministry, Metropolitan Association, April 2026

Good Standing Requirements for Metropolitan Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ

Approved February 26, 2026

Active membership in a Metro Association church.

For ministers serving outside the Metro church where they hold membership, local churches are encouraged to offer flexibility about how “active membership” is defined, and to view caring for these ministers as part of their church’s participation in the wider church; ministers are encouraged to think creatively about how they might maintain a covenantal connection with the local church where they hold membership.

Three-way covenant (or four-(or more)-way covenant) complete, approved by COM, and on file with Metro Association.

For more information, consult the [Manual on Ministry](#). Ministers who hold membership at the local church where they serve should have a three-way covenant between themselves, their local church, and the Association. Ministers who are retired but continue to engage in public ministry to some degree, or who are on a season of leave from ministry, should have a covenant between themselves, their local church of membership, and the Association.

Attendance at the Association’s fall and/or spring meetings, or absence excused by COM.

Ministers are additionally encouraged to participate in the life of the Association via serving on committees or task forces, attending events such as ordinations and installations, participating in spiritual life and professional development events, etc.

Boundary awareness training (UCC or an alternative approved in advance by COM) every three years.

Six hours of diversity training (CRMT or another training approved in advance by COM) every two years.

24 hours of continuing education per year (may include BAT, diversity, CRMT, sexual harassment prevention training). Up to half may be independent reading on ministry topics.

Note that sexual harassment prevention training is not a Metro Association requirement of ministers with standing in Metro. Employers, including churches, are required to provide this to and require it of all employees. Metro ministers who receive sexual harassment prevention training through their employers may include that training as part of their continuing education.

Annual completion of the Annual Information Review.

If requested, provide information to and/or meet with COM about matters of ministerial authorization.

A three-year transition period will be observed for ministers to complete new and revised requirements.