

**Ordination & Ministerial Standing Committee (OMSC)
Report to the Spring Meeting of the Metropolitan Association**

Greetings to you all,

The OMSC continues to be active in our role overseeing clergy authorization for the Metropolitan Association. We meet monthly, except August, at Broadway UCC.

As I shared at the Fall Meeting, the Metropolitan Association By-Laws are somewhat unique in that the work surrounding support of active clergy is held by three standing committees including Congregational Development & Standing and Spiritual Life & Professional Development. We continue to seek for more opportunities to partner with these committees. We also work with the Boundary Awareness Team (BAT) and receive regular updates from the Commission on Ministry at the NY Conference level as well as wider church updates from our Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development, Rev. Freeman Palmer. The Committee met with members of the Executive Committee in January and enjoyed a meaning dialogue about the Member in Discernment (“MID”) process and improving relations with the Association and particularly congregations with MID’s. Associate Conference Minister for Clergy Concerns Rev Marsha Williams attended our February meeting and introduced several initiatives she is working on and offered herself as an additional Conference resource.

We welcomed two Members in Discernment (MIDs) since the Fall Meeting and saw Rev Will Critzman ordained. OMSC has no active Fitness Reviews at this time. The Situational Support referenced at the Fall Meeting concluded the data gathering phase and provided recommendations to the congregation and pastor. A subcommittee continues to be a resource to the congregation.

MIDs are one of the primary UCC pools of future clergy. Each MID is on their own journey and works closely with their mentor through their process. OMSC gathered our MIDs following the 2014 & 2015 Fall Meetings to review the ordination and discernment process followed by Q&A. Several OMSC members are present today and we welcome one on one conversations to answer any questions about the ordination process or UCC authorization that you may have. The Association’s new Registrar Rev Elissa Leone is hard at work updating many of our documents and getting them uploaded to the Association website so that they may be a resource to persons seeking authorization or who have questions. We hope that clarifying the process will reduce confusion. The Manual on Ministry (MOM) is also a resource available to all at www.UCC.org, keeping in mind that the local committee on ministry i.e. OMSC, confirms requirements.

We continue to strive for additional lay membership to reach a 50-50 lay/clergy balance of our eighteen member committee. We currently have six lay members serving and Rev Ronald Williams Wells serves as our advisory member. OMSC is a significant time commitment and one of its great gifts is that provides a way to experience the rich blessing of strong clergy in this Association. The Ordination & Ministerial Standing Committee appreciates the opportunity to serve.

Peace & blessings, Yvette Wynn, Chair

