

## **Pastoral Relations Committee: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **1) What is the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)?**

The PRC is a standing committee in the congregation with the purpose of supporting a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The goal of the PRC is to promote faithful, shared ministry between the pastor and the congregation

### **2) What is the composition of the PRC and how are members selected?**

According to ByLaws approved by the Congregation in 2015, the PRC includes the Sr. Pastor and members of UCCH. UCCH's Assistant Moderator shall chair the Pastoral Relations Committee. The Senior Pastor(s) and Moderators jointly nominate the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee for Council approval. While there is no formal rule, for years the members have been gender balanced. Each of these Council-approved committee members shall serve a four-year staggered term, with one new member joining each year. The PRC is currently composed of 5 members.

### **3) How does the PRC function?**

The PRC serves in two primary ways:

- I. As an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor
- II. As a support group for the pastor: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of pastor to the congregation

### **4) How does information get shared with the PRC?**

The PRC has created a link to the PRC on the UCCH's main webpage. If you wish to communicate thoughts or concerns directly to members of the PRC, please send an email to: [pastoralrelationscommittee@unitedchurch.org](mailto:pastoralrelationscommittee@unitedchurch.org). Note that this email will automatically go to all PRC members, but not the Senior Pastor. All information received through this email address will be treated as confidential.

### **5) What won't the PRC do?**

The PRC will not circumvent the church's processes of decision-making, will not receive communications from group petitions, only individuals, will not relay anonymous communications, nor allow their own ambitions for church life to become part of their deliberations or interactions.

### **6) Resources**

The PRC operates according to the guidelines provided by the United Church of Christ. See below link for a copy of the UCC document: <https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/ASF-PastoralRelationsCommittee.pdf>

In addition, we have and can access guidance from the Southern Conference and our Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Edward Davis.

### **7.) Who are the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee?**

Current members: Doug Zabor, Sandy Polson, Denise Pagano, Midge Coward and Melanie Joiner as Chair. Please introduce yourself to them and share your story. Please note that all correspondence should be sent to the PRC email address at: [pastoralrelationscommittee@unitedchurch.org](mailto:pastoralrelationscommittee@unitedchurch.org).