

**Rev. Gary Ferner**  
**ACM For Search and Call**  
**Annual Report**

**The Numbers:**     **40 Churches are in Transition on average per month (nearly 17%)**  
**180 new Pastoral Profiles** arrived for circulation, average of 15 per month  
**16 UCCNY Pastoral Profiles validated in total**, a little over 1 per month  
**13 Local Church listings posted** to Opportunities on average  
**37 requests for UCC Pastoral Profiles to go to UCCNY churches** in 12 months  
**15 Postings** on the Opportunities Web Page on average  
**5 Churches completed the Congregational Welcoming Diversity Inventory**  
**Congregations Assisted: 18.5 per month on average**  
**Organizations Assisted: 3 per month on average**  
**Pastors Assisted: 16.75 per month on average**

**Highlights:** Supported the Western Association Committee on Ministry, attended as often as I could, in person or via zoom.

Led the Service of Remembrance at last year's Annual Meeting.

Was present to witness and support the founding of the 'Better Together' Group in their response to the racist killings in Buffalo, and assisted in those churches receiving some Neighbors in Need resources.

Served as Host to the UCCNY Staff meetings at Fairmount Community UCC

Initiated a relationship with the University of Buffalo Psychology Dept. to discuss their providing Psychological Assessments for our Members in Discernment. (In process).

Worked with several groups interested in affiliating with the UCC

Managed the UCCNY Mail: received mail, forwarded mail, and recorded the checks we received in preparation for deposit.

Presented the Congregational Welcoming Diversity Inventory Intro to several churches, and presented the Results Meeting to 5 churches.

Began the *Search and Call Corner* in the Happenings.

**Challenges:** With fewer staff and an increasing work-load in all areas of our ministries, it is challenging to find weekly Sabbath time.

Zoom is a wonderful tool, but it falls short in helping us develop a connection with a local congregation, or a local pastor. In-person connections can be stronger, but time and distance create barriers to in-person support of congregations and authorized ministers.

**What's on the Horizon:** Staff-led support gatherings for members of search committees and leadership of churches in transition, where experiences and best practices can be shared.