

**Annual Report to the New York Conference Board  
Commission on Ministry: June, 2025 - May, 2026  
Susan J Belair, Chair**

**Thank You**

First, a shout-out to Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef for all of her years of service as Chair and a member of the Commission on Ministry. Through her leadership and with the prior members, the Commission had completed splendid work and graciously passed this over to a newly formed Commission in alignment with the Board's directive.

**This Past Year  
NYSOM**

Thanks to the work of ACM Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, NYSOM has continued to offer excellent courses, scholarships, and graduate student opportunities; expand programming; and maintain a welcoming partnership with other schools, in addition to a partnership with the Interim Ministry Network. For more detailed information, see NYSOM's Annual Meeting Report.

**Boundary Awareness Training (BAT)**

This is ongoing. There is a newly updated curriculum for retirement BAT, and we will be updating Refresher BAT in early 2027. We do not anticipate changes to Basic BAT. We will run BAT for Congregations again this Fall. Last year's two-hour BAT for Congregations was very well attended. We are hoping to expand this year's class by half an hour to allow additional conversation.

**Culturally Responsive Ministry Training (CRMT)**

CRMT2 is coming to a close. The last time this module will be offered is in June. CRMT3, with a focus on Disability and Ablism. This module will launch late this summer.

**Unified Fitness Review Board (UFRB)**

As Rev. Van Cleef has stated in the past, it is very difficult for members of an Association Committee on Authorized Ministry to conduct a Fitness Review for a colleague. The Conference-wide UFRB allows for people from other Associations to be trained to conduct a Fitness Review. Rev. Valerie Meyer chairs the UFRB. A Conference Staff member is assigned to staff each fitness review.

**Compensation Guideline**

We have formed a sub-committee to work with other conferences of comparable size to ours to learn their practices. This team is reviewing compensation levels, formats, and benefit calculations. This is ongoing at this point in time.

**Consultation for Committees on Authorized Ministry**

We are looking at three ZOOM dates in June:

Thur 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30-8.30 pm

Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30-11.30 am

Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm

If you serve on a COM, please stay tuned for more details. We will communicate through your Commission representative and through your COM chair. We plan to cover the following topics:

Sample Minutes of COM Meetings – Conflict of Interest and  
Confidentiality

Using the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers  
Manual on Church

**Guidelines for Pastors Leaving a Call**

The Commission established Guidelines for Pastors Leaving a Call in 2015. We will review this document in the upcoming year and make any necessary updates.

**Current Commission Members**

Susan Belair (Chair, GVA)  
Jose Colon (Oneida)  
Barbara Davis (Metro)  
Ron Garner (Suffolk)  
Rev. Paula Gustafson (Western)  
Phillip Metcalf (Reformed)  
Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine (ACM, NYSOM)  
Rachel Roberts (North Country)  
Christine Stegel (Hudson Mohawk)  
Rev. Barbara Van Olpen (ACM), and  
Peter Wright (Susquehanna)

**Additional Information**

We have agreed to meet bi-monthly via Zoom to enhance communication between COMs and the Commission. The Mission of the Commission on Ministry is to help our COMs develop best practices that are consistent throughout the Conference.