

A Process for "Periodic Support Consultations" With Authorized Ministers and Association Representatives for the Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference of UCC

Manual on Ministry, in describing the "Periodic Support Consultation," says, "The purpose of the Periodic Support Consultation is to provide support for the authorized minister, to encourage ministers personal and vocational development, and to provide an occasion for reflection and feedback on the practice of ministry."

Periodic Support Consultations occur regularly, typically every three years, and include direct contact between authorized ministers and representatives from the Ministry Team for Authorized Ministry (MTAM). In this proceeding, the MTAM does not seek to address issues related to an authorized minister's fitness, significant concerns or problems, or standards for authorization. These would be addressed in a Fitness Review, Situational Support Consultation, or Information Review.

The Ministry Team for Authorized Ministry shall conduct Periodic Support Consultations with approximately one third of the authorized ministers in the Association each year.

The goals of the Consultation include:

- " Care, nurture and support of the authorized minister and lay leadership.
- " Collegiality and strengthened covenant relationships with other ministers and laypersons.
- " Assurance that persons are receiving support.
- " Opportunities for the critical reflection on the nature and practice of Ministry.

Six teams of MTAM members, consisting of one lay and one clergy member, one male and one female when possible, shall each conduct sufficient Consultations each year to maintain the three year rotation and shall report to the Ministry Team for Authorized Ministry.

Manual on Ministry (page 20) identifies the following as significant issues to be addressed during such consultations:

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| " Growth of the person | " Participation in the (wider) church |
| " The ministry setting | " The function of the ministry |
| " The fulfillment of the person | " The Ministerial Codes and The Church's Expectations |
| " The sense of call | " The ethics of the person |
| " The terms of the call | |
| " The covenantal relationship | |

A form listing these issues, with suggested questions for discussion, will be distributed to the minister in advance of the scheduled meeting. The meeting would then include:

- " The person authorized for ministry and
- " Two representatives of the Ministry Team for Authorized Ministry (who will schedule and facilitate the meeting)

The person authorized for ministry may, at his or her discretion, invite lay leaders from his or her calling body to participate in the consultation. The MTAM representatives will explain to the

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authorized minister that inclusion of lay representatives is at the prerogative of the minister. It is important to bear in mind that the meeting is intended to be conducted in a collegial, supportive and affirming spirit with the intent of advancing the cause of Jesus Christ to the glory of God in the Prairie Association.

After the meeting, the authorized person and the representatives of the Ministry Team for Authorized Ministry will each submit a brief written summary of the meeting, along with any recommendations to each other and to the full Ministry Team for Authorized Ministry.

Failure to participate in the periodic support consultation process may jeopardize one's standing in the Prairie Association.