

ABCOM Committee on Ministry Report
To ABCOM Board
May 2023

The ABCOM Committee on Ministry [COM] consists of representatives from each of our associations, serving three-year terms. At the last annual meeting we were pleased to welcome to the COM Sheila Heneise (Penquis), Carolyn Davila (Damariscotta), and Ken Smith (Kennebec).

The COM is responsible for implementing standards of recognition for ministerial leadership as determined by the ABCOM. Whether it is commissioning or ordination, our focus is to listen for a Call to ministry, and to discern and assess Character and Competency for ministerial service.

The COM also oversees the implementation of ABCOM's Ecclesiastical Process for Ministerial Misconduct. This process is activated when we receive a formal complaint alleging ministerial misconduct. Such a complaint triggers a somber and deliberate process; it takes time and intentionality. Our hope is always restoration and reconciliation, though this does not always occur. This spring, however, after a lengthy and thoughtful process (over 4 years) we agreed together to lift a censure placed upon one of our pastors. The recognition of this pastor's ordination is now restored to good standing within ABCOM. It was a time of hope and joy.

The COM continues to serve our larger ABCOM family through its concern for the call, character and competency of the ministerial leadership serving our churches.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Pamela Morse
Chair, ABCOM Committee on Ministry