

Annual Report – Church and Ministry Commission

A busy year for Church and Ministry! We continue to be in conversation with the Asian Indian Christian Church regarding affiliation with the UCC. We have met with Pastor Kamalesh Stephen and 2 members of the congregation as a Commission and discussion continues as we explore affiliation.

On November 29, 2018 we enthusiastically welcomed 4 RCA churches (The Reformed Church of Highland Park, Community Church of Keyport, Middletown Reformed Church, and Trinity Reformed Church of Plainfield) into dual alignment with the UCC following an Ecclesiastical Council in Cedar Grove. Welcome!

We have continued to hold Exit Interviews with those clergy transferring their standing out of the NJA or who have left their positions at NJA churches. These are valuable meetings for both the pastors in transition and for us as Commission members.

A team from C&M participated in a Situational Support with one of our churches – and a second team participated in a Situational Support Consultation in the Potomac Association, CAC. This service is available to any church wishing outside support/advice/resources in dealing with conflict or any other difficulty within the local church.

The Manual on Ministry has been revised, a long but good process. We held a joint meeting with the Pre-Ordination Commission to discuss changes before voting to accept the new manual. There are significant changes for both commissions that will be implemented on an ongoing schedule.

Thank you to the members of the Church and Ministry Commission for their dedication to our important work: Dave Shaw, Ron Verblauw, Carol McCullough, Tom Willingham, Jack Cuffari, Lauri Craig, Joy Mounts, and Jan Harder. Special thanks to Beth Pugh and David Popham!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Cindy Reynolds, Chair