1 **CONCERNING SETTING A MINIMUM STANDARD OF** 2 **CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS WITH** 3 STANDING IN THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, SOUTHERN 4 **CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE** 5 6 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has an historic commitment to the education of 7 ministers; and 8 9 WHEREAS the continuing education of ministers strengthens the whole church; 10 11 WHEREAS scripture reveals that education is an integral part of life (Proverbs 4:13; 9:9; 18:15); 12 13 WHEREAS the helping professions expect authorized individuals to engage in regular continued 14 education programs; 15 16 WHEREAS the Ordained Minister's, Commissioned Minister's and Licensed Minister's Codes of 17 the United Church of Christ state, "I will seek to grow in faith, knowledge and the practice of 18 ministry through intentional continuing education, study and devotional life;" 19 20 WHEREAS the UCC Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministry call all authorized 21 ministers to "a commitment to continuing education, professional development, and life-long 22 learning"; 23 24 WHEREAS the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our ministerial partner implemented a 25 continued education program for its Authorized Ministers in 2006; 26 27 WHEREAS a minimum standard is necessary to measure participation in continuing education; 28 29 WHEREAS the financial resources and time constraints of authorized bi-vocational ministers in 30 our Association may require special individualized approaches to Continuing Education; 31 32 LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Southern Association of the United Church of Christ, Southern 33 California Nevada Conference shall adopt a graduated approach to reaching a goal of 15 CEU's 34 (Continuing Education Units) per year by 2019 as the standard of continuing education for all 35 UCC Authorized Ministers (except retired Omega ministers) to maintain standing in the 36 Southern Association, effective March 12, 2017. This graduated approach will include five (5) 37 hours of CEU's for 2017, ten (10) hours for 2018, and fifteen (15) hours of CEU's for 2019. 38

39

IMPLEMENTATION

We live in a time when the culture, the church and ministry are in the midst of rapid change. Continuing Education is a professional necessity for authorized ministers and others serving the church to remain engaged with the issues and insights that continue to be offered, to further develop leadership skills, and for authorized ministers to continue to grow intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

However this same changing landscape of ministry also requires a compassionate flexibility when it comes to requiring higher standards for those authorized to serve Christ in their various cultural, social, and economic circumstances. It is for this reason that we are adopting a graduated approach to implementing these standards for our Association. This graduated approach will include five (5) hours of CEU's for 2017, ten (10) hours for 2018, and fifteen (15) hours of CEU's for 2019.

Since the Association is the Body that establishes standing for individuals in ministry we reserve the authority to determine and accommodate any specialized circumstances that may be imposed on those bi-vocational ministers who are currently working in part-time or full-time secular positions. The CEU involvement of each authorized minister will be listed on the annual association information form and in order to encourage participation in Association, Conference and General Ministries of the church, we will grant continuing education credits for attendance at the following:

Association Meetings: At a rate of 1.5 hours of CEU credit per meeting.

 • Annual Gathering: At a rate of 2.5 CEUs per day. In other words, attendance at a full Annual Gathering will be equivalent to 5 hours of CEU credit.

 • Boundary Training: At a rate of 1 hour per workshop beyond required Sexual Ethics, Parts A&B.

• General Synod: At a rate of 8 hours of CEU credit for the event.

 Workshops and assemblies sponsored by the Christian Disciples of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be credited as per the practices of those denominations.

 Any other workshop that could be applied to the performance of ministry: 1 hour of CEU credit per contact hour.
Training events and conferences for Association, Conference, and Denominational

positions: At a rate of 1.5 hours of CEU credit per day.
Clergy Community of Practice facilitated meetings (as administered by the SCNC or the UCC): 1 hour per meeting.

By March of 2019 fifteen (15) HOURS OF CEUs (Continuing Education Units) per year will be the minimum standard of continuing education for all Authorized Ministers (except retired Omega ministers) to maintain standing in the United Church of Christ, Southern California Nevada Conference.