

## **Continuing Education Requirements for Ministers with Standing Covenanting Committee on Ministry, Southern California Nevada Conference**

The Covenanting Committee on Ministry (CCOM) recognizes the vital importance of continuing education for UCC clergy. As spiritual leaders, clergy play a central role in nurturing communities and responding to the diverse needs of those they serve. In an ever-evolving world, where challenges and opportunities abound, the CCOM remains committed to ensuring that clergy serving in and on behalf of the UCC are engaged in ongoing professional formation and are equipped with the necessary skills, connections, and self-awareness to navigate the complexities of modern ministry with excellence and compassion.

### **Requirement:**

All ministers with UCC Ministerial Standing are required to complete a minimum of 15 continuing education units per calendar year to maintain Active standing.

### **Methods of Fulfillment:**

Clergy members may achieve their continuing education units through the following avenues:

#### **1. Wider Church Participation**

Participation in UCC-sponsored or affiliated gatherings, conferences, seminars, or workshops that enrich their professional development and nurture their spiritual growth.

- A. Association Meetings (1 unit each)
- B. Conference Annual Gathering (5 units)
- C. General Synod Delegate (5 units)
- D. Association/Conference sponsored Community of Practice (1 unit per meeting, max 5 units)
- E. Committee on Ministry Team (1 unit per training/meeting, max 5 units)
- F. SCNC Conference Board of Directors (1 unit per training/meeting, max 5 units)

#### **2. Workshops, Classes, Retreats**

Attendance at workshops, classes, retreats, or courses offered by accredited institutions, religious organizations, or professional associations that contribute to the enhancement of their professional skills and competence.

- A. Educational Retreats (1 unit/contact hour)
- B. Preaching Festivals (1 unit/contact hour)
- C. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and/or Accessibility Training (1 unit/contact hour)
- D. Professional Workshops/Classes (1 unit/contact hour)

#### **3. Therapy, Coaching, and/or Spiritual Direction**

Utilizing a therapist, professional coach, or spiritual director encourages growth, spiritual development, and self-reflection, and creates opportunities for a strengthening of professional skills as well as a deeper understanding of oneself and one's vocation. (1 unit per session, max 5 units)

#### 4. Independent Study

Engaging in self-directed study, research, or reflection on topics pertinent to their ministry, spirituality, theology, pastoral care, or other areas conducive to professional advancement.

- A. Webinars (1 unit per hour)
- B. Self-pace course (1 unit per hour)
- C. Books relevant to ministry (1 unit per book)
- D. Movies related to the practice of ministry (1 unit per movie) (e.g. Won't You be My Neighbor, Selma, etc.)

Independent study *should be accompanied by a short explanation of how the material engaged relates to their professional practice of ministry.*

#### Guidelines:

1. **Relevance:** Continuing education activities should directly relate to the clergy person's professional role responsibilities, and correlate to an area of competency described by the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers
2. **Documentation:** Clergy members are responsible for documenting their participation in continuing education activities, including dates, titles, and descriptions of the events or activities, as well as the number of units completed. An optional record keeping log is available for clergy to use for recording purposes.
3. **Records.** Clergy submit a completed record of their continuing education units during the prior year as a part of the Clergy Annual Information Review each January.
4. **Accountability.** Non-compliance with the continuing education requirement, or any other ministerial standing requirement, may result in the suspension of and/or termination of UCC Ministerial Standing. Ministers experiencing challenges to fulfilling their continuing education units should reach out to the Covenanting Committee on Ministry.

#### Additional Considerations: Exempt Standing

Because the word "retired" in American culture may mean any host of things, the word "retired" does not influence ministerial standing or ministerial standing requirements. In the UCC, ordained ministers continue to have Active Ministerial Standing until they reach a time where they want to no longer engage in public ministry—at which time they may apply for Exempt Standing. Ministers with Exempt Standing are *exempt* from Boundary Training and Continuing Education, since they are no longer engaged in public, professional ministry.

Applications for Exempt Standing are available at [www.scnucucc.org/resources/standing](http://www.scnucucc.org/resources/standing).