

**FIRST REPORT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD REGARDING THE
NOMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR
ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER**

On March 7, 2025, the United Church of Christ Board received the report of an Associate General Minister search committee, constituted pursuant to United Church of Christ Bylaw 225, which is attached to and incorporated into this Report. The committee was charged with searching for an Associate General Minister candidate for the current Love of Church portfolio of work. As described in the search committee's report, the search committee diligently searched for a candidate to fill the open Associate General Minister position but did not find a candidate suitable to recommend to the United Church of Christ Board. A new search cannot be completed on a schedule that will timely present a candidate to the Thirty-fifth General Synod.

The United Church of Christ Board recognizes the importance of bringing a candidate for election by the General Synod and will act diligently to do so. Following the meeting of the General Synod in July 2025 and the election of the new United Church of Christ Board at-large members, a new search committee will be appointed and a new search will be conducted with the intent of bringing a candidate for election at a specially called meeting of the General Synod in early 2026, which will be held online. Until then, the duties of the Associate General Minister will continue to be carried out by a transitional executive. The United Church of Christ Board is choosing not to appoint an Acting Associate General Minister.

United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws Amendments are coming before General Synod in 2025. If approved, these amendments would change the role of Associate General Minister to a staff role that is not elected. These amendments will not affect the current vacancy, because Constitution amendments must be ratified by two-thirds of the Conferences prior to taking effect. The Conferences have until the opening of the Thirty-sixth General Synod to do so. The current Associate General Minister vacancy will be filled through an election by General Synod.

Love of Church Search Committee Report

Report Date: February 5, 2025

Chairperson: Rev. Jasmine C. Quinerly

Committee Members: Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley --Mark Dutell—Richard Horn---Rev. Mary Nelson- Rev. Cean James -Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

Staff Assistance: Alisa Lewis, Human Resources – Heather Kimmel, General Counsel

Assignment: The Love of Church Search Committee was to review the job description and provide guidance to the UCCB by presenting a candidate recommendation for the LOC position. An approval by the UCCB for the presented candidate then would be offered to the general body at Synod.

Summary of Activities:

The committee was established in August of 2024. Members accepted this assignment with a sacred honor of service. The Committee work began with intense review of the job description, instructions regarding confidentiality, covenantal responsibilities, and ethical requirements.

The Search Committee viewed job posting dates and established calendar timelines related to received applications, review/matrix scoring, zoom and in person interviews. The committee members were prayerful in establishing questions and inquiries relating to job description and holding the good of the United Church of Christ and all that brings honor to God.

The application closing date was scheduled for the end of November 2024. Human Resources reported 25 applications received with 9 applications meeting all application requirements. The established matrix utilized was scored and lead to a narrowing of candidates for zoom interviews, and finalist pool of 2 for in person interviews. At each stage of this process, committee members were determined to prayerfully consider rating matrix, position requirements, and criteria for job performance.

Deliberation processes provided a variety of thoughts and discussions in regard to written presentations, verbal thought presentations and spiritual formations offered by the applicants.

Results: After careful consideration, evaluations and reflection on the final applicants and holding the job description parallel, this committee, by unanimous consensus, could not approve a candidate for the position of Love of Church.

No candidate will be recommended for the Love of Church position by this committee to the UCCB.

The General Minister and President in consultation with the General Counsel and HR will establish next steps to fill this position as stated.