

Pastoral Ministry



Jim Bolich
Director of
Ministerial
Licensing and
Ordination

It has been both an honor and joy to serve as the Director of Ministerial Licensing and Ordination for the past two years. I especially appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the exceptional group of elders who serve on the Pastoral Ministry Leadership Team (PMLT). Together, we oversee the licensing and ordination process for the US National Conference and give leadership to the professional development of its ministers.

PMLT Regions

Licensing of ministers is shared among four regional Ministerial Licensing and Ordination Teams (MLOT). Each MLOT is tasked with the responsibility of assuring that our ministers can think critically, communicate clearly, engage biblically, and interact effectively. We depend on the MLOT to assure licentiates advancing through the process are demonstrating growth in theological development, Kingdom dynamics (spiritually alive, relationally connected, missionally engaged), and practical ministry skills.

In addition to licensing ministers, PMLT elders take the initiative to communicate regularly with retired and unassigned ministers in their region for the purpose of support and relationship. Regions are delegated as follows:

East. The East Region has been served by Rev. Greg Helman (Blue Rock UB church, Waynesboro, Pa.) and Rev. Stuart Johns (Idaville UB church, Gardners, Pa). Both were serving in their inaugural term.

Central. The Central Region has been served in the north by Rev. Terry Smith (Bethel UB church, Elmore, Ohio) and in the south by Rev. Mike Brown (Franklin UB church, New Albany, Ohio).

North. The North Region has been served by Rev. Randy Carpenter (Colwood UB church, Caro, Mich.) and Rev. Lee Rhodes (Countryside UB church, Breckenridge, Mich.).

West. The West Region has been served by Rev. Craig Burkholder (Hudson UB church, Hudson, Ind.) and Rev. Troy Green (Westside Community Church, Monroe, Ind.).

Rev. Bob Bruce (Emmanuel Community Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.) stepped away from this role in 2018. We appreciate the many years of faithful service he provided on the PMLT.

Ministerial Licensing

Elders Orders were granted to 6 persons.

Mark Self, senior pastor of Trinity UB church (Fostoria, Ohio). Granted July 21, 2017. Transfer of credentials from the Wesleyan Church.

Andrew Atkins, senior pastor of Monticello UB church (Spencerville, Ohio). Granted August 20, 2017.

Jeff Lawson, senior pastor of Hopewell UB church (Auburn, Ind.). Transferred from the Christian & Missionary Alliance denomination; recognized on February 25, 2018.

Christine Augustat, children's pastor at Fowlerville UB church (Fowlerville, Mich.). Granted March 24, 2018.

Stephen Flint, pastor of worship and care at King Street Church (Chambersburg, Pa.). Previous ordination recognized on June 21, 2018.

David Kisamore, senior pastor of Mill Chapel (Reedsville, W. Va.). Previous ordination recognized on November 5, 2018.

National Church licenses were granted to 5 persons.

Brad North, senior pastor of South Scipio UB church (Harlan, Ind.). Granted December 11, 2017.

Jerald Jones, senior pastor of McCallum UB church (Delton, Mich.). His license was reinstated on February 5, 2018.

Dan Reed, family pastor at Bethel UB church (Elmore, Ohio). Granted March 25, 2018.

Curtis Carnes, pastor of missional discipleship at Renew Communities (Berea, Ohio). Granted April 30, 2018.

Matt McKeown, associate pastor of First UB church (Holly Hill, Fla.). Granted August 28, 2018.

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Josh McKeown, senior pastor of Faith UB church (Port Orange, Fla.). Granted August 28, 2018.

Specialized Ministers licenses were granted to 7 persons.

Matthew Hann, pastor of worship at College Park Church (Huntington, Ind.). Granted September 14, 2017.

Holly Lutton, then on staff at College Park Church (Huntington, Ind.). Granted September 14, 2017.

Don Swartz, executive pastor of Dillman Church (Warren, Ind.). Granted February 25, 2018.

Nicholas Walborn, student ministries pastor at New Hope Community Church (Bryan, Ohio). Granted April 7, 2019.

Adam Keath, director of restoration and recovery at King Street Church (Chambersburg, Pa.). Granted May 16, 2019.

Matthew Gish, pastor of high school ministries at King Street church (Chambersburg, Pa.). Granted May 16, 2018.

Brandon Groff, then the student ministry pastor at Fowlerville UB church (Fowlerville, Mich.). Granted May 23, 2018.

Provisional licenses were granted to 15 persons.

Eric Griffon, worship pastor at Fowlerville UB church (Fowlerville, Mich.). Granted December 11, 2017.

Jason Peterson, children/youth pastor of Atlantic Avenue UB church (Franklin, Pa.). Granted January 16, 2018.

Lissa Litka, spiritual journey director at Morning Star Church (Kokomo, Ind.). Granted February 25, 2018.

Andrew Franks, youth pastor of New Hope UB church (Huntington, Ind.). Granted June 8, 2018.

Adam Keath, director of restoration and recovery at King Street Church (Chambersburg, Pa.). Granted June 25, 2018.

Nickolas Balsiger, associate pastor of discipleship and student ministries at The Well (Huntington, Ind.). Granted July 14, 2018.

Julie Llewellyn, pastor of early childhood ministries at Emmanuel Community Church (Fort Wayne, Ind.). Granted August 28, 2018.

Jim Hippensteel, pastor of compassion and care at The Well (Huntington, Ind.). Granted November 2, 2018.

Moses Bowden, Brooklyn Park UB church (Baltimore, Md.). Granted November 16, 2018.

Kyle Reilly, then associate pastor of Victory Heights UB church (Franklin, Pa.). Granted November 30, 2018.

Andre' Laird, senior pastor of Mount Zion UB church (Wayne, Ohio). Granted December 7, 2018.

Stephen McElhiney, associate pastor of Ebenezer UB church (Greencastle, Pa.). Granted March 7, 2019.

Daniel Pratt, senior pastor of Bethany Evangelical Church (Carlisle, Pa.). Granted May 5, 2019.

Josh Lance, youth director of Otterbein Church (Greencastle, Pa.). Granted May 16, 2019.

Tiffany Rhine, early childhood coordinator at Fowlerville UB church (Fowlerville, Mich.). Granted May 23, 2019.

Transitioned from permanent local to a permanent provisional license.

Joseph Cilone, The Heights UB church (East Liverpool, Ohio).

Mark Rutledge, Praise Point UB church (Willshire, Ohio).

Fred Browning, Cream Ridge UB church (Lenore, Idaho).

Wilmer Houck, Coleta UB church (Coleta, Ill.).

Transitioned from local to permanent lay minister license.

Mark Anderson, youth and worship pastor at Eden UB church (Mason, Mich.).

Patti Bartholome, Emmanuel Community Church (Fort Wayne, Ind.).

Aletha Beckford, First Church Bronx (Bronx, New York).

Rebekah Burkholder, Kunkle UB church (Kunkle, Ohio).

Michael Butler, First UB church (Van Wert, Ohio).

George Etling, associate pastor of Jerusalem Chapel (Churchville, Va.).

Carlton Godfrey, Bethel Temple of Praise (Yonkers, New York).

Dave Jarvis, supply pastor of Liberty UB church (Stockport, Ohio).

Jacqueline Jenkins, church administrator of Bethel Temple of Praise (Yonkers, New York).

Daniel Lam, outreach pastor of Mount Olivet UB church (Mount Solon, Va.).



Valerie Malcolm, Bethel Temple of Praise (Yonkers, New York).
Russell Marshall, Fifth Street UB church (Staunton, Va.).
Sheryl Rawlings, Shepherd of the Valley (Logan, Ohio).
William Samuels, Park Layne UB church (New Carlisle, Ohio).
Hyacinth Sang, First Church Bronx (Bronx, New York).
Thomas Shunk, Park Layne UB church (New Carlisle, Ohio).
Louis (Buzz) Stone, senior pastor of Pleasant View UB church (Blanchard, Mich.).
Michael Sturgill, supply pastor of Olivet UB church (New Lebanon, Ohio).
Philip (Marty) Wilt, senior pastor of Underwood UB church (Oakland, Md.).

A temporary lay minister license, as a transition from local license, was granted to 1 person.

Ben Wood, Mainstreet Church (Walbridge, Ohio).

Summary of PMLT Actions

Elimination of Local Church License

To both eliminate confusion between the Lay Minister and Local Church licenses and to bring all licentiates serving in pastoral ministry under the oversight of the PMLT, the PMLT voted to eliminate the Local Church license. Ministers holding the Local Church license were given opportunity to either have their license converted to a Permanent Lay Minister license or pursue the Provisional license.

Transitioning Credentials

Licensed ministers may find themselves serving in denominations/affiliations outside the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, creating connectional challenges. To address this issue, the PMLT agreed to provide a two-year window for transitioning credentials to other bodies and established the procedure for returning to UB credentialing should the need arise.

Status of Credentials

The PMLT created a new chapter for the Pastoral Ministries Handbook titled “Status of Ministerial Credentials.” It clarifies terms used regarding ministerial credentials and added the categories of “Under Supervision” and “Revoked” to our list of definitions. The complete list of categories is:

1. Under Supervision
2. Inactive Status
3. Probation
4. Suspended
5. Revoked
6. Good Standing.

Assigning Ministers

The PMLT edited the “Assigning Ministers” chapter of the Pastoral Ministries Handbook to build flexibility into the process while maintaining the foundational philosophy that pastors are assigned, not called. The edits essentially clarified the role of the stationing committee and how the PMLT is involved in the process when a candidate is being considered who does not hold licensing with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA.

Revision of Licensing Questions

Recognizing that the questions asked of licentiates at the Provisional, Specialized, and National Conference levels were virtually identical, the PMLT revised these questions to enable ministers to demonstrate growth in theological development, Kingdom dynamics, and practical ministry skills.

Educational Pathways

Ministerial education is a critical component of the licensing process. Modern technology and economic pressures are having a major impact on the options available for ministers. The PMLT remains committed



to Huntington University as our preferred provider for ministerial education in both the licensing process and continuing education. We are also open to alternate educational pathways, in both credit and non-credit format, which will prepare ministers for service when the traditional pathway is not the best option.

Spouse in Licensing Process

Because we know that the relationship between the minister and spouse is a critical aspect of effectiveness, the PMLT has incorporated two vehicles through which we will engage the spouse in conversation. At the Provisional license level, we are requiring that one of the Ministerial Reference forms be submitted by the spouse of married ministers. At the Specialized and National Church levels, we are requiring that a Spouse Survey be submitted by the minister's spouse.

Specialized Ministers License for Church Planters

The PMLT recognizes that the educational background needed for launching new churches may be different from our requirements for ordination. To address this reality, the PMLT expanded the Specialized Minister's license as an option for ministerial credentials for church planters.

Criminal Background/Credit Check

Desiring to serve as a resource for churches, the PMLT decided to include both criminal history and financial credit checks for ministers being considered for Provisional license. The PMLT is working on developing the specifics for how this will be implemented.

Pastoral Ministry Handbook

The Pastoral Ministry Handbook remains the primary source of information concerning the licensing process. I am grateful for the careful assistance Steve Dennie provides in updating both the online and downloadable PDF versions in a timely manner. One addition to the Handbook is a Licensing Options flowchart. It was designed as a quick reference to outline the process of ministerial licensing.

United Brethren History

The United Brethren History Course is a requirement for ministerial licensing. However, people who just want to learn more about United Brethren history are welcome to participate. The course is held periodically in regional settings. Rev. Bob Bruce and Dr. Darryl Elliot have been teaching this class since 2012. Steve Dennie's excellent work, *All for Christ*, has been added to the list of required reading.

Recognizing the opportunity to make the class available to ministers for whom attending class presents a challenge, videos from the most recent class presented by Bob Bruce are now available online. This has been especially helpful for co-vocational pastors and for ministers in other national conferences. I'm grateful for the assistance of David Kline in recording, preparing, and posting these videos online.

Collaboration with Huntington University

I am grateful for the renewed collaboration opportunities which Dr. Sherilyn Emberton's leadership has fostered. The recent appointment of Dr. Luke Fetters as Dean of Graduate and Professional Programs is another example of the University's commitment to the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. I'm grateful for the contribution to our ministerial development he has already brought to the PMLT.

Huntington University remains our preferred provider of ministerial education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The PMLT continues to explore ways to partner further with the University. We especially seek to develop programs which bring advantage to both the University and ministers/churches. An example of this partnership is the "Idea to Action Symposium" launching in October 2019, which makes the high-quality education of the University available across the denomination for continuing education utilizing online technology.

On the Homefront

On July 1, 2018, our family transitioned our pastoral ministry role from Prince Street (Shippensburg, Pa.) to Mount Pleasant (Chambersburg, Pa.). It was amazing to see how God provided perfectly in this unexpected change. Both congregations have been supportive and encouraging of my role with the National Office. Al-

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though we miss the many friends we made in our 16 years at PSC, we have been received warmly and enthusiastically by our new friends at MtP and have quickly felt at home.

Janet and I celebrated 28 years of marriage on August 18, 2018. Janet teaches 3rd grade at Cumberland Valley Christian School (Chambersburg, Pa.). She has served on faculty at CVCS for 13 years, and continues to sense a call of God to remain in this role for the foreseeable future.

We clearly sense that our sons are exactly where God desires, for which we are grateful. Jim3 is working as a maintenance assistant at Rhodes Grove Camp (Chambersburg, Pa.) and is seeking God's face for his next step. David finished his sophomore year at Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Ohio), where he is studying Sports Management.

In Closing

It is a pleasure to be part of the United Brethren National Office staff. Bishop Todd Fetters continually amazes me with his ability to balance the serious work of ministry with the joy of serving God's people. It's an honor to be part of his team.

Cathy Reich provides excellent administrative assistance. Her help is vital in the licensing work, especially as we have been transitioning Local Church ministers to either Permanent Lay Minister or Provisional licenses. She deserves much credit, and I appreciate her ministry.

The rest of the crew is extraordinary as well. I enjoy the times we share together when I'm in Huntington.