

Proposed Amendment to Article VI – Departments and Committees – Showing Changes

Note:

Words that are struck through (~~struck through~~) appear in the current document but would be deleted
 Words that are in red (red) are ones that will be added by the proposed amendment.

22. Committees and Entities of Departments

- a. Within the Department of Church and Ministry there shall be a Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee and Church Standing and ~~Growth~~ Standards Committee, ~~each consisting of a Chair and Scribe and no fewer than six or more than ten members,~~ including both ministers and laity, elected by the gathered Conference for three-year terms with the terms of as close to one-third as possible to expire each year. No committee member shall serve more than six consecutive years.

(1) The Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee:

- (a). The Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee shall be responsible for the authorization of ministry, upholding standards of excellence and providing leadership and resources in all matters pertaining to the fitness and standing of ministers on behalf of ~~those the~~ Associations of the Conference ~~which have delegated such responsibilities to the~~ Conference. The Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee shall use as its standard and guide the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry.
- (b). ~~The Committee shall consist of a Chair and Scribe and no fewer than six or more than ten other members.~~
- (c). The Scribe of the Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee shall be responsible for maintaining accurate and confidential records of the work and decisions of the Committee. These records shall be housed at the Conference Office. The Conference Placement Secretary shall be responsible for reporting appropriate and required records concerning the work of the Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee to the appropriate denominational office.

(2) The Church Standing and ~~Growth~~ Standards Committee:

- (a) The Church Standing and ~~Growth~~ Standards Committee shall be responsible for ~~providing oversight, leadership, and resources in all matters pertaining to the standing of Local Churches in covenantal relationship with the Associations of the Conference, and the standing of the Associations in covenantal relationship as the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.~~ certifying the readiness of churches to enter into covenant with the United Church of Christ through the granting of standing by an Association; facilitating periodic visits to, or reviews of, covenanted churches; and facilitating covenantal support consultations and if necessary recommending, to an Association, dissolution of covenantal relationship with churches. This work is to be done on behalf of those Associations of the Conference which have delegated those specific responsibilities to the Conference. The Church Standing and ~~Growth~~ Standards Committee shall use as its ~~standard and~~ guide the United Church of Christ Manual on Church and other United Church of Christ resources.
- (b) ~~The Committee shall consist of a Chair and Scribe and no fewer than three or more than seven other members.~~
- (c) The duties of the Scribe and the responsibilities for records shall be the same as those described in paragraph (1) (c) above. ~~The Conference Minister shall designate the staff person responsible for reporting appropriate and required records concerning the work of the Church Standing and Standards Committee to the appropriate denominational office.~~

Proposed Amendment to Article VI – Departments and Committees – As the section will read if the amendment is adopted.

22. Committees and Entities of Departments

- a. Within the Department of Church and Ministry there shall be a Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee and Church Standing and Standards Committee, including both ministers and laity, elected by the gathered Conference for three-year terms with the terms of as close to one-third as possible to expire each year. No committee member shall serve more than six consecutive years.

(1) The Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee:

- (a). The Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee shall be responsible for the authorization of ministry, upholding standards of excellence and providing leadership and resources in all matters pertaining to the fitness and standing of ministers on behalf of those Associations of the Conference which have delegated such responsibilities to the Conference. The Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee shall use as its standard and guide the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry.
- (b). The Committee shall consist of a Chair and Scribe and no fewer than six or more than ten other members.
- (c). The Scribe of the Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee shall be responsible for maintaining accurate and confidential records of the work and decisions of the Committee. These records shall be housed at the Conference Office. The Conference Placement Secretary shall be responsible for reporting appropriate and required records concerning the work of the Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee to the appropriate denominational office.

(2) The Church Standing and Standards Committee:

- (a) The Church Standing and Standards Committee shall be responsible for certifying the readiness of churches to enter into covenant with the United Church of Christ through the granting of standing by an Association; facilitating periodic visits to, or reviews of, covenanted churches; and facilitating covenantal support consultations and if necessary recommending, to an Association, dissolution of covenantal relationship with churches. This work is to be done on behalf of those Associations of the Conference which have delegated those specific responsibilities to the Conference. The Church Standing and ~~Growth~~ Standards Committee shall use as its guide the United Church of Christ Manual on Church and other United Church of Christ resources.
- (b) The Committee shall consist of a Chair and Scribe and no fewer than three or more than seven other members.
- (c) The duties of the Scribe and the responsibilities for records shall be the same as those described in paragraph (1) (c) above. The Conference Minister shall designate the staff person responsible for reporting appropriate and required records concerning the work of the Church Standing and Standards Committee to the appropriate denominational office.

Rational:

The document, as originally adopted, gave responsibility for nurturing churches and determining standing of churches to the same committee. These two responsibilities can be in conflict. As the Conference and Associations have become more serious about church standing and standards the need for separate committees for the two functions has become apparent. Church Standing and Standards, since it may have to take actions with legal implications, remains in this section of committees elected by the Annual Meeting. Church Growth will continue to exist as a committee within a department.