

What is a Periodic Support Consultation?

It is an informal meeting between an authorized minister and a member of the Covenant sub-committee of the Committee on Ministry. The conversation is focused on the minister's assessment of his or her ministry, and how the Minnesota Conference might be of help.

The purpose or goal of a Periodic Support Consultation is to provide an occasion for reflection and feedback on the practice of ministry, to provide support for the authorized minister, and to encourage ministers' personal and vocational development. (Adapted from the United Church of Christ's Manual on Ministry.)

The Covenant sub-committee of the Committee on Ministry of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ conducts these Periodic Support Consultations (PSC) and thinks of them more as "conversations" on the "covenants" between ministers, congregations, places of ministry and the Conference. We are currently doing these 'conversations' as one-on-one encounters, either in person or by phone. The Covenant sub-committee members are assigned 4 or 5 authorized ministers' names each quarter to set up a time and place for the conversation. The sub-committee member will provide a list of standard questions ahead of time so that the conversation has a focus. It usually takes about an hour or a little longer if the authorized minister gives a tour of their ministry location. In these conversations the sub-committee member will also verify the contact and employment information.

The sub-committee has a goal of doing a PSC with every non-retired authorized minister in the Minnesota Conference in a three to five year time-frame. Retired ministers receive visits from the Pension Board representatives.

Providing this kind of opportunity for conversation and reflection is just one of many ways the Minnesota Conference provides support and nurture to our authorized ministers. We are grateful for all those who serve in a variety of ministry settings, making real the love and mercy of God.