

June 1, 2009

Dear Colleague in Christ,

Grace and peace be to you this day from the Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS) of the Metropolitan Boston Association. I write you today to notify you of a new requirement instituted by the COMS at its April 16, 2009 meeting. It was affirmed that to maintain ministerial standing in this Association all authorized ministers (ordained, licensed, in care, commissioned and retired) will need to complete Boundary Awareness Training within the next three years.

The COMS has studied and discussed this possibility for over a year. Last June, the five Associations in the Conference that were already requiring Boundary Awareness Training for their authorized ministers approached the Committees on Ministry of the six Associations who were not and asked them to consider doing so. After careful consideration and deliberation the COMS affirmed this requirement for the Metropolitan Boston Association.

As you will see in the attached policy adopted by the COMS, Boundary Awareness Training is understood to be a professional development opportunity. Its intent is to increase awareness of appropriate relational boundaries in the practice of ministry. We heard witness from the other Associations that Boundary Awareness Training also builds collegiality among peers. Where ministry can sometimes be experienced as a lonely profession, the COMS sees this as an opportunity to build community among colleagues.

The dates for upcoming Boundary Awareness Trainings are:

<u>Wellesley Hills Cong. Church</u>	<u>United Church in Walpole</u>	<u>Cong. Church West Medford</u>
<i>Trainers:</i> Jean Alexander, Pastor at United Parish of Auburndale  Matt Fitzgerald, Senior Pastor at Wellesley Hills Cong. Church	<i>Trainers:</i> Ray Kostulias, Pastor at United in Walpole  Heike Werder, Associate Pastor at Needham Cong. Church	<i>Trainers:</i> Reebee Girash, Pastor at Pleasant St. Cong. Church in Arlington  Steven Savides, Pastor at Cong. Church, West Medford
October 21 & 22, 2009	September 28 & 29, 2009	June 18 & 19, 2009
February 10 & 11, 2010	March 8 & 9, 2010	November 5 & 6, 2009
May 26 & 27, 2010		April 29 & 30, 2010

We encourage direct colleagues of our trainers (e.g., fellow staff or members of a trainer's church) to take the training with a different facilitator.

You will also note in the policy that Boundary Awareness Training offered by other Associations in the MA Conference will also fulfill this requirement. If you need an alternative date, the Plymouth office is coordinating training dates for all Associations in the Conference.

Please be in touch with Dale Hempen at [semac.ucc@verizon.net](mailto:semac.ucc@verizon.net) or 508-746-8330. Other Boundary Awareness Training programs can be reviewed by the COMS for equivalency.

Training sessions will be limited to 20 participants. The cost is \$75, which includes food, materials and a stipend for our trainers. Application for a discounted rate of \$50 may be made by in care and retired ministers. To sign up for an upcoming training, please contact Colin Loggins at the Waltham office at [macucc.waltham@verizon.net](mailto:macucc.waltham@verizon.net) or 781-890-1444.

Annual notification will serve to remind you of this requirement and dates of trainings that are available.

We look forward, with you, to fostering healthy ministries and building collegiality across the Metropolitan Boston Association.

Yours in faith,

The Rev. Marian Williams  
Chairperson, Committee on Ministerial Standing