

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Standing Committee on Ordained Ministry (SCOM) continues to work with individuals who want to have their ordination recognized or to gain ordination through the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. In the past year we have been looking at ways to help those who are not able to go to seminary achieve the level of training and education that is required to have one's ordination recognized at a Regional level. This includes making a list of ministry competencies, connecting with The School of Ministry at The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, and offering weekend courses similar to the Baptist Polity course that is offered every other year. We are still in the early stages in this process and welcome all comments and suggestions. The committee is constantly working to encourage individuals to live into their call in ordained ministry while upholding standards that we feel are necessary for individuals to lead churches with integrity.

In addition, SCOM has prepared a procedure to respond to allegations of unethical actions on the part of pastors or staff people of American Baptist Churches. While the region (including SCOM) cannot take any formal action towards the relationship between a church and a staff person, we can offer our services to help facilitate conflict, offer support, and be present with all parties involved.

The landscape of ministry is constantly changing, and SCOM is working hard to stay in front of those changes to help prepare and support those who feel called to ordained ministry.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, Chair