

COMMUNICATIONS WITH COVENANTAL PARTNERS REGARDING FITNESS REVIEWS

Sharing of Initiation of a Fitness Review

In order to exercise their roles and responsibilities appropriately, covenantal partners are informed about the initiation of a Fitness Review, as well as its initial and final outcomes. This includes the Minister in Question, the Local Church of membership, the Calling Body (if different from the Local Church), the Association or Conference Acting as an Association, and (if applicable) the UCC Endorsement Office. The Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team of the national setting will also be notified, using a copy of the Fitness Review Reporting Form from the Association or Conference. Additionally, other bodies may be informed of the initiation of a Fitness Review if appropriate, including secular authorities (in cases involving criminal conduct), ecumenical judicatories, and other ministry partners.

Sharing of Outcomes of a Fitness Review

Covenantal Partners: All covenantal partners should be informed of the outcome of a Fitness Review, including the Authorized Minister, Local Church, Calling Body (if different from the local church), the Association or Conference acting as an Association, and (if applicable) the Endorsement Office, and the appropriate professional/governmental endorsement body.

Association: Since the actions of a Committee on Ministry are ecclesial actions, the COM's report in the Association (or Conference) annual report is an appropriate place to communicate all outcomes of completed Fitness Reviews to the wider church.

MESA Team: All Fitness Review outcomes are recorded in the UCC Data Hub by MESA, based on Fitness Review Reporting Forms submitted by the Association/Conference. Disciplinary outcomes (Conditional Affirmation with program of growth, Censure, Suspension, Termination), Resignation of Standing with bias in the midst of the Fitness Review, and Reinstatement of Standing are communicated through the MESA Memo to appropriate bodies within the church for the purposes of Search & Call and transparency in covenantal relationships.

Ministerial Profile: If a minister is qualified to circulate a ministerial profile, then Conditional Affirmation with a current program of growth, Censure, Suspension (following reinstatement of standing), and Termination (following reinstatement of standing) are recorded in the self-disclosure section of the profile in perpetuity. Affirmation of Fitness, Admonishment, Referral to Situational Support Consultation, and Conditional Affirmation with a successfully completed program of growth are not required to be recorded in the self-disclosure statement.