

CALL TO A SPECIAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Hello Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ,

At the end of our Conference Annual Gathering, it was announced that the PNC-UCC Board is calling a Special Meeting of the Conference for June 18 at 6:30 p.m. to recommend to the Conference to call the Rev. Phil Hodson to become the Designated Conference Minister following the end of his six-month term as Acting Conference Minister. His term as Designated Conference Minister will extend through June 2026. The Board vote was completed on April 14, 2024, outside the 30-day notice to include this business in the Annual Meeting.

Our PNC-UCC Board has made this recommendation to you for two reasons. First, Phil has done very good work for us over the last few months, and we wish to see what more we might accomplish together. Second, we feel that it is presently in the best interest of our conference to seek a period of stability in leadership in order to breathe and recenter ourselves in the good work before us and the God-given blessings we have in one another.

We could not vote on calling Rev. Hodson at our annual meeting because thirty days' notice is needed for business to be presented to the conference body. **We are now giving you notice that a special online conference meeting has been called for Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm.**

You can register via this [link](#) by June 10 to attend. This will give us time to check registration and ensure we have a quorum. We also ask that you share about this meeting with your church and encourage delegate representation.

IMPORTANT: As with our Conference's annual meeting, we require a quorum of delegates from all our churches. Please talk with church leadership about whether you might serve as a delegate. *Please do not assume that you are a delegate.* This is a new meeting, and each church must name new delegates.

Many materials accompany this call to meeting in attachments, and we hope you will take the time to peruse them. They include:

- [Agenda for the Meeting](#)
- [Standing Rules](#)
- [Guidelines for communication](#)
- [An Introduction of Rev. Phil Hodson](#)
- [F.A.Q. Sheet](#)

We understand that voting on a Designated Conference Minister is a decision that our Conference takes seriously. To prepare for the meeting, there are four in-person “meet and greets” with Phil and one online. We hope you will join us at one of the following:

May 27, 2:00 - 5:00 pm in Federal Way, WA

The Rev. Amy and Eric Johson welcome you to their home at 4620 SW 327th Place in Federal Way, WA. Drop in any time between 2:00 and 5:00. Refreshments will be provided. RSVPs are appreciated. Simply text Amy at 253-653-2786.

June 7, 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Seattle, WA

The Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski, Rev. Karyn Frazier, and the congregation of Fauntleroy Church UCC welcome you to the church for an evening of potluck desserts and good conversation with Phil. Feel free to bring a sweet treat to share, or just show up and trust in the abundance!

June 9, 1:00 - 4:00 pm in Spokane Valley, WA

The Rev. Gen Heywood and the congregation of Veradale UCC welcome you! The church is located at 611 N. Progress Rd. in Spokane Valley, WA.

June 10, 2:00 - 6:00 pm in Richland, WA

The Rev. Esther Sanders welcomes you to her home at 2017 Blue Ave., Richland, WA. Drop-in any time.. Some refreshments provided.

June 12, 7:00-8:30 pm ONLINE

Wendy Blight is hosting an online meet-and-greet. You can join via this [link](#).

Agenda

- 6:30 Opening Prayer
- 6:35 Purpose of Meeting
- 6:40 Introduction of Phil
- 6:50 Review Terms of Call
- 7:05 Discussion
- 7:40 Vote
 - Designated Conference Minister (DCM)
 - Search Committee
 - Vote on Terms of Call
- 8:00 Closing Prayer

Standing Rules Annual Meeting 2024

These standing rules will be voted on after the approval of the agenda during our first business session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

1. Working together in community as we carry out the business of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, we desire to conduct ourselves in ways that are inclusive and respectful of all voices. We desire to accomplish our community business in ways that fulfill our responsibilities to one another, to each local church, to our Conference, and in covenant with all settings of the United Church of Christ. As delegates and participants in the Annual meeting, we covenant to respect one another, to address our comments to the Moderator, rather than to each other, and to speak our truth in love remembering that we each bear the image of God.
2. Business, according to the agenda, will be conducted using a few basic process rules. While our bylaws make no mention and do not require us to use Robert's Rules of Order, we agree to be guided by the process rules stated below. If a given situation is not covered by these process rules, Robert's Rules of Order/ Consensus will be used. This is at the discretion of the Moderator.
3. Any business needing approval of the delegates requires a Motion and a Second by a delegate to the annual meeting. Motions and Seconds and all discussion will take place using the designated microphones on the floor or in the way designated for those delegates joining the meeting virtually.
4. Any delegate making a motion, seconding a motion, or speaking for or against the motion is asked to identify themselves by name and local church membership. After a motion receives a second, the proposer of a motion may speak in favor of the motion for two minutes.
5. Questions of clarification may be asked by delegates at any time. Following the opening comments of the person proposing the motion, there will be time for delegates to speak for or against the motion. Whenever possible, the Moderator will alternate between pro and con speakers. Those wishing to speak will speak for not more than one minute. No delegate may speak more than twice on a given motion until all wishing to speak have been heard. Those speaking should limit their comments to the issue under discussion.
6. The Moderator will ask for a vote by the delegates attending the meeting physically and virtually on a particular motion when in the Moderator's opinion, sufficient discussion has been heard. We hope to avoid the time-consuming

process of moving to end debate, by relying on the Moderator's judgment on a particular motion.

7. During the meeting, if a given matter is one of clear consensus, the Moderator may call for "unanimous consent with no objection" on any item requiring a decision of the delegates.
8. The appropriateness of Amendments to Motions is always the trickiest part of meetings. The Moderator has the discretion to work with delegates in a fair and just way to get the most appropriate wording for a motion on the floor for a vote. Here are some guidelines and rules for delegates that can help move the process forward effectively:
 - a. "Friendly Amendment" – This is commonly used but does not exist in any formal procedures. Let's work with the intent. If you have a minor clarification or addition to a Motion on the Floor ask the maker of the motion to make a change in the wording of the motion. If they do this and the person who seconded the motion agrees – then the updated motion is deemed to be the motion on the floor. OR 2) the request may be made from the floor at a microphone or from a delegate attending the meeting virtually after being recognized by the Moderator. The maker and the second of the motion have 10 seconds to say YES or NO to accepting. There is no debate or back & forth discussion unless the Moderator needs clarification.
 - b. "Substance Change Amendment" – These must be submitted in writing to the screen operator or in the chat function for virtual attendees, so all delegates can see the wording without confusion. These amendments should be made from the floor. The Moderator may rule such an amendment out of order if it is deemed to be on a substantially different subject. Such an amendment does require a second. If the amendment passes, it is incorporated into the original motion.
 - c. "Substitute Amendment" – This is a replacement of the original motion in its entirety. The maker of this type of amendment should say this or similar words, "I move that the motion on the floor be completely replaced with the following..."
9. We entrust the Moderator with the flexibility to discern a fair and just way to proceed at any point during our meeting. In the spirit of this, the Moderator may say "With the support of the Body and with no voiced objection, I suggest we proceed by..." If there is no objection, then the body proceeds in accordance with the Moderator's suggestion. The Moderator may also lead the gathered body in prayer, into a period of discussion, or a period of silence as a way of seeking consensus or a way forward on a given issue.

10. If an issue emerges during the meeting that in the opinion of the Moderator needs further discussion and discernment, the Moderator can adjust the agenda or provide other settings where discussion or discernment may take place. This includes referring a given item to the Board of Director of the Conference for further consideration later.

Process Guide:

For this annual meeting we are going to have a Process Guide rather than a parliamentarian. As our Process Guide, the Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski will be available to reference the standing rules, bylaws, and constitution as we move through our time together. The Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski will also remind us of our covenant if the need arises. Finally, the Process Guide will help track our voting process.

Guidelines for Communication - June 18, 2024

1. Address our comments to the Moderator, not to each other
2. Speak your truth in love
3. Attack problems, not people (Share from personal experience.)
4. Listen with respect and to understand
5. Couple complaints/concerns with possible solutions
6. Make room for others to speak
7. When the going gets tough, turn to wonder and curiosity. Curiosity builds bridges.
8. Expect to experience discomfort

An Introduction of Rev. Phil Hodson



The Pacific Northwest Conference of the
United Church of Christ presents

REV. PHIL HODSON

AS CANDIDATE FOR
DESIGNATED CONFERENCE MINISTER

Rev. Phil Hodson joined the Pacific Northwest Conference as Acting Conference Minister on February 1, 2024. Phil comes to us from the South Central Conference, where he served as Conference Minister. Before that, he was a local pastor specializing in new church starts and revitalizations. He is passionate about church growth, made possible by sharing our values in the public square. Phil and his wife Joelle are the proud parents of Xander, Xane, Xackary, and Xavier. They currently reside in College Station, Texas.



WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING:

"Respects the mission of the Conference"
Rev. Esther Sanders, PNC Board Vice-Moderator

"Struck just the right balance as he answered our questions...demonstrated his role as a servant leader inviting us to faithful service on behalf of the church"
Rev. Dr. Ron Patterson, PNC Board member and Fox Island UCC Search Committee Member

"He brought wisdom, strength, care, and support...A powerful bond in the Spirit was forged immediately."
Rev. Cameron Sharp, Committee on Ministry - West

"Unlike many who are comfortable talking, Phil is a good listener." Morag Stewart, Committee on Ministry - East

"Quick to figure things out, and yet he stays open to new information and to viewpoints that differ from his"
Wendy Blight, PNC Board member and Personnel Co-Chair

"Phil cares a lot about connection."
Rev. Dr. Sandy Wisecarver, PNC Board member

"Phil has shown up with transparency, enthusiasm, wisdom and resources."
Rev. Amy Johnson, PNC Board member



COME TO A MEET-AND-GREET!

Special Conference Meeting – June 18, 2024

F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is a “Designated Conference Minister?”

A Designated Conference Minister (DCM) is a person called to serve a conference for a specific duration with assigned tasks that are not limited to but could include, the five essential tasks of interim ministry. Unlike an Intentional Interim, a Designated Conference Minister is eligible to apply for the Settled (permanent) Conference Minister position at the end of their designated term, should the Spirit lead them.

Why did the PNCUCC Board of Directors decide to recommend a Designated Conference Minister instead of an Interim Conference Minister (CM)?

In six months the search committee had two different searches, resulting in one candidate who felt called in a different direction. No additional candidates were available, and with Rev. Jonna Jensen seeking to step down, the person assisting Conferences seeking CMs suggested Rev. Phil Hodson. After an initial conversation with our Moderator and Vice Moderator, the Board interviewed and contracted with Rev. Phil Hodson to be our Acting Conference Minister for six months.

What is Rev. Hodson’s package, and will the 2024/25 budget need changing?

Good news: the salary package for a CM is already in the approved budget for the upcoming year. This package includes salary, benefits, and travel expenses.

Was Rev. Phil Hodson involved in the sale of a camp in another Conference and are our camps safe?

The decision to sell Slumber Falls Camp was made by the South Central Conference Board of Directors in accordance with its bylaws, and as Conference Minister, Phil honored the board’s decision and requests. This decision was painful for both parties. There are rumors about this, and, as scripture suggests, it is best to talk with someone directly. Phil will openly discuss this and other concerns about the Conference. Please know Phil is a minister in good standing who comes highly recommended to us. Our camps are safe. Again, Phil, as DCM, will work at the board’s will. Phil, the Board, and the Conference know the camps are our greatest assets.

Will Phil move to the Pacific Northwest?

Phil and his family live in Texas at this time, and will remain remote. Moving to the Pacific Northwest would be a costly and disruptive decision that the Board recognizes doesn’t make sense for a Designated Conference Minister time of service. Phil is committed to spending at least one week a month on the ground in our Conference. At other times, he is thankful for how the PNC-UCC has embraced digital technology and remote methods for gathering together.

How can I learn more about Phil to inform my vote on June 18?

Phil's bio is available on the website. Also, other opportunities are scheduling a one-on-one meeting, drop into his weekly office hour, or come to one of the meet-and-greets the Board has arranged, including one online. In addition to getting to know Phil, these are occasions for us to grow as a Conference community together, too!

Can I attend the Special Conference meeting on June 18 if I'm not a church-specified delegate?

Yes; of course! All are welcome. Please understand, however, that for the sake of order and time, only delegates will be given voice and vote.