

Settlement Committee

The Maritime Conference Settlement Committee is made up of two representatives from each of our Presbyteries and Bermuda Synod and formally meets as a committee in early May. It is out of that gathering that the Settlement Report is prepared for presentation on the floor of the Maritime Conference Annual meeting. Besides the written report, the better known function of the Settlement Committee is the prayerful matching of Ordinands and Commissionands to settlement sites in the conference. However, with remit approved changes to the traditional Transfer/Settlement system that now invites candidates for Ordination and Commissioning to seek their own call or appointment, the focus of the committee has changed. There is another remit going to Presbyteries during 2014 which if approved would tweak the Settlement process further.

In 2013, there were both no candidates and no settlement sites in Maritime Conference and very few across the country. Again this year the number of candidates seeking traditional transfer and settlement is small. On a national level, there are 44 candidates to be Ordained or Commissioned but only 4 have chosen the Transfer/Settlement process, two of which are from Maritime Conference.

Given the smaller pool of candidates, the General Council Transfer Committee meeting will again be done by conference call. As of this writing, there is no certainty as to how many candidates may be transferred to Maritime Conference or the number of possible sites, but like the last couple of years, it is probable that the Maritime Conference Settlement Committee would again meet by conference call with few candidates or sites.

On another note, during the fall I travelled to Halifax to spend an afternoon with the third year United Church students to talk about and answer questions with regards to their options. Everyone in the church is still learning the benefits of each process and I try to offer as much information as possible so that the process would unfold as smoothly as possible for the candidates.

In the spring, Kendall Harrison (Conference Personnel Minister) and I hope to gather with last year's settlement candidates who started their ministry in Maritime Conference. It is an annual time to check in and offer support to folks beginning new ministry relationships as well as get feedback about the settlement process.

Many thanks, in advance, to the Presbytery representatives to the Settlement committee and the ongoing support of Kendall and Lorraine Horyl (support staff at Conference Office) which makes this responsibility just that much easier.

Sincerely,
Steve Longmoore