



## Greetings, RMC friends,

In the interest of full disclosure, an update:

Following the closing of his contract with the RMC in October, Rev. Dr. Douglas Wooten requested additional compensation beyond the 90-day severance we provided. This was based on his assumption that he would serve as our Interim Conference Minister for at least two years, though that was not part of his Call Agreement. His demands fluctuated greatly from late October through November. Both the Personnel Team and the Board of Directors reviewed his requests and agreed that we had already fully complied with our contractual obligations. Nevertheless, we all acknowledged that both Dr. Wooten and our Conference were adversely affected by certain lapses in the hiring process. These resided largely with the UCC's national office, but also with our very good intentions in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Therefore, the Board approved an additional gift as an expression of support from the RMC to Dr. Wooten in the amount of \$10,000, which was mailed on December 11. He processed that check on December 21. On the same day, it was announced that he was hired as the new Executive Director of [Franklinton Center at Bricks](#), Inc in North Carolina. We wish him every success in his new role and hope his ministry will bear lasting fruit.

Additionally, the Board requested that I, along with Vice Moderator MaryEllen Beltracchi and Lay Leader Liaison Laura Gurney, draft a letter to UCC President and General Minister Rev. Dr. Karen A. Georgia Thompson. We intend to finalize and send that letter in coming days. It will call upon the national office to acknowledge their role in placing Dr. Wooten in a situation for which he was not and could not have been prepared. We will request that they, too, send him a gift of \$10,000. I am thankful to Personnel Chair Adam McCoy, the Personnel Team, Acting Conference Minister Rev. Erin Gilmore, and the Board of Directors for their wise and compassionate guidance through these challenging weeks and months.

All of this to say, this situation was complicated by overlapping injustices. It seemed impossible to make things right to everyone's satisfaction. We are complicit in oppressive systems, even as we try to undo them. But our time with Dr. Wooten offered us hard lessons – and we're thankful for them. No doubt, we'll keep making mistakes, but we are committed to growing in awareness and in our capacity to discern what is good and just. And we are committed to doing our best to integrate what we learn into our relationships and how we carry out our ministries.

Along the way, I welcome your continued prayers and thank you for living out your commitment to justice in your own context.

Peace to you,  
Sarah

Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Linn, Moderator  
RMC Board of Directors

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## Authorized Boundary Training and Anti-Racism Training

Clergy poised to retire, as well as those who have already retired, are invited to participate in an upcoming, free three-hour training offered by MESA in the national setting. (Monday, March 4, 2024, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Mountain Time.)

Here is MESA's course description: Maintaining healthy boundaries is challenging at any stage in ministry and it is particularly tender and difficult attending to boundaries as we transition out of our last call, and while in retirement. "A Sure Foundation", "The Ministerial Code" and Rev. Dr. Bruce

Epperly's new book, "The Jubilee Years" along with case studies, will provide the content of this training. Rev. Tara Barber will offer this focused Boundary Awareness Training for those entering and living in retirement.

Provided you submit a certificate of completion to the Supportive Oversight Committee's Registrar, Martha Jones (comregistrar2@rmcucc.org), this training completes individual requirements for boundary training for retired (and soon to be retired) clergy with standing in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Register [HERE](#)

Please reach out to [Rev. Karen Winkel](#) with questions or concerns.

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Monday, January 29, 6:00 – 9:00pm ET, Boundary Awareness Training for Ministers in Specialized Settings, with Revs. Tara Barber and Anissa Glaser-Bacon

This training, hosted by Revs. Tara Barber and Anissa Glaser-Bacon, is open to ministers serving in specialized settings throughout the United Church of Christ. Serving in specialized settings requires particular attention to boundaries within the ministry setting and home church that are challenging and different from those serving as local church pastors. This training will focus on matters that relate specifically to issues that these ministers face, providing opportunities for clergy to reflect on best practices and growth in their practice of ministry.\*Note - This training completes individual requirements for boundary training ONLY WHEN authorized by a local Committee on Ministry.

Register [HERE](#)

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Dates for Enkei Resolutions' 2024 Boundary and Racial Justice Trainings have been scheduled. Please see dates, links for registration and for more information below. Each training will be held via Zoom from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Pacific Time) on each of two days. Participants who complete all six hours of their selected training will receive a certificate of completion. Please verify with your judicatory body if this training meets your requirements. I am happy to send information if necessary to have these trainings approved if they are not already.

**Boundary Training**

- February 13-14
- April 10-11
- September 10-11

[Information](#) [Register](#)

**Racial Justice Training**

- March 19-20
- May 14-15
- October 8-9

[Information](#) [Register](#)

Questions? Email [dweible@enkei-resolutions.com](mailto:dweible@enkei-resolutions.com). Cost for training is \$60 per person per training.

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Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found [here](#).