

## Association Quick Comparison Chart

### What is this document?

- This document is a quick, at-a-glance comparison of the three Congregational associations as well as non-association.

### How was the list of topics/questions compiled for this chart?

- These questions were derived from the returned surveys the congregation submitted in May, as well as additional topics and questions from the council.

### Where did the answers/information come from for each association option on this chart?

- Council members researched information on three of the association's websites. They also spoke with members of each of the four association options to obtain information not available on the websites.

### What's next?

- After reviewing this quick comparison chart, you are encouraged to take a look at each association's websites (see the last line of the comparison chart) and formulate questions and comments about the four options for the first townhall discussion on July 30.
- Beginning July 9, you are encouraged to submit your questions to the council via email (fccmukwonago@gmail.com), phone (262-363-7249), or an online form (type this link into your internet browser: <https://form.jotform.com/231783824885066>) by July 23. Council will work to obtain answers to your questions and discuss them during the townhall discussion. (You can scan the code to the left using the camera feature on your smartphone or tablet to access the online form, if you prefer.)
- July 30 after worship, the first townhall discussion will take place. This discussion session will consist of:
  - Powerpoint presentations with more in depth information on the topics and questions from the comparison chart for the four association options. (This information will also be available both online and in print on July 2, 2023 prior to the townhall discussion so there is time to read, review, pray about the information, and formulate questions.)
  - Council will read and answer questions submitted by the congregation.
  - Cordial discussion and question/answer time will be available after the presentations.
- If new questions arise during the townhall discussion, council will keep a list and obtain the information needed. We have a second townhall discussion planned for August 27, if needed.
- The goal of the council is to have all of the congregation's questions answered and appropriate discussion completed to make a final decision at the November Congregational Meeting. If more time is needed for our congregation to make this important decision, that's okay.



### Important dates to note on your calendar: Please plan to attend in person or via Zoom

- July 9, 2023: The in-depth information on the topics from the comparison chart for each association will be available online (via What's Happening) and in print at church.
- July 23, 2023: deadline to submit questions to be answered during the first townhall discussion
- July 30, 2023: Townhall discussion at church after worship (verbal presentation of in-depth information, answer questions submitted by July 23, and open question/discussion time)
- August 27, 2023: Townhall discussion after church after worship, if needed.

Please note: While we will be respectful of your time, there is no time limit set for any of these sessions. Council is dedicated to making sure everyone is heard and questions, comments, and concerns are properly addressed so the voting congregation members can make an informed decision.

### Final words:

As a member of FCC, you are encouraged to voice comments, concerns, and questions; but remember we are all one family in Christ (John 1:12). We must pray and reflect before speaking so God is glorified in our words and actions (James 1:19-20). The Council has been working diligently to provide accurate information so an educated decision can be made by all members. Please remember that seeking God's will (Matthew 6:33) and showing God's love to each other (John 13:34-35) are more important than voicing our own opinions (Proverbs 18:2). We all feel passionately about this topic and want what's best so FCC can grow and become a place where each of us mature in our relationship with Christ, show God's love to the world, and welcome new brothers and sisters into His embrace.

Topic / Question	CCCC	NACCC	UCC	Non-Association
Pastoral Search assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (self-directed)
What is required for a pastor to be ordained in the association?	-Seminary Training -Candidate submits written doctrinal papers to the Vicinage Council. - Local Church wishing to ordain a candidate calls a Vicinage Council for consideration.	-Ordination is done by the local church and that church supports the candidate. -All other churches in NACCC accept the ordination done by that church.	-Acknowledgement of Jesus as the sole head of the church -Membership in a local church of the UCC -Demonstrated knowledge and affirmation of the history, polity, and practices of the UCC -Demonstrated competency with the <i>Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers</i>	N/A
Does the association have missions it supports?	Yes (collaborative or self-directed)	Yes (collaborative or self-directed)	Yes (collaborative or self-directed)	N/A
Required support for association missions	No	No	No	N/A

Financial Contribution required/suggested to be an active member church	2% of church's budget	Fair Share \$13 per member or \$1 total from the church	No (recommendation of \$6 per member; not required)	N/A
Pulpit fulfillment (supply) resources	No	Yes	Yes	Partner with other local churches
State conference	Yes (only ministers)	Yes (WCA)	Yes	Can attend other denomination conferences if desired.
National conference (annually)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Can attend other denomination conferences if desired.
Number of churches currently in this association	300	299	4,794 nationally (approximately 212 statewide)	0
Financial assistance programs available to FCC (grants/loans)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Lilly Foundation, etc.)
Does the association have a statement of faith?	Yes (Visit CCCC website)	No	Yes (Visit UCC website)	N/A
Does this Statement of Faith need to be adhered to for membership?	Yes	No	No	N/A
Legal assistance available	Yes (board member who is an attorney)	No	No	No (self-directed)
Lay ministry programs	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (self-directed)
Pastor/pastor's family assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (self-directed)
Pastor education available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (self-directed)
Does the association have a covenant?	No	No (Vision and Mission Statements)	No	N/A
Will they cover us under 501(c)(3)? (FCC doesn't have it's own)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A (FCC would have to apply for our own)
Sister-church council (i.e. Vicanage council)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (self-directed)
What is required to belong to the association?	A Statement of Faith and admission of an annual survey that include the Statement of Faith and polity of CCCC	Annual monetary gift, agreeing that Christ is head of the church, and congregational polity	Exploring, developing, affirming a covenantal relationship between the local church and the UCC. Agree that Christ is the head of the church.	N/A
Does the association have any social issues on which they take a stance?	Yes (See <i>Position Papers</i> on website)	Yes (See website for list and details)	Yes (See website for list and details)	N/A
<a href="https://www.cccusa.com/">https://www.cccusa.com/</a>	<a href="https://www.cccusa.com/">https://www.cccusa.com/</a>	<a href="https://www.naccc.org/">https://www.naccc.org/</a>	<a href="https://www.ucc.org/">https://www.ucc.org/</a>	N/A

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