

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 Report to Presbytery
 Nov. 8, 2011

REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

Annual Consultations:

The committee held annual consultation with the following inquirers and candidates, who have filed their annual reports with the presbytery as required by the presbytery's manual. The committee **VOTED** to continue them on the rolls:

NAME	STATUS	CHURCH NAME, CITY & STATE
Barbara England	Inquirer	Peace, St. Louis Park, MN
Dan Franklin	Inquirer	Westminster, Minneapolis, MN
Sara Hein	Candidate	Hope, Richfield, MN
Sarah Hooker	Candidate	Westminster, Minneapolis, MN
Simone Tyler	Inquirer	Kwanzaa, Minneapolis, MN
Steve Tyykila	Candidate	Knox, St. Paul, MN
Jermaine Ross	Inquirer	Church of all Nations, Columbia Heights, MN

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Enroll as a Candidate: Barbara England

Barbara England, who is on the roll of Inquirers of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, having satisfactorily demonstrated adequate promise for ministry by presenting the statements specified in the Presbytery's policy, met with the session of Peace Presbyterian Church, St. Louis Park, MN, and with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, is presented to the Presbytery to be examined "with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry," and to be received as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. (See Attachment A)

The committee **recommends** that **Barbara England** be enrolled as a candidate for Teaching Elder and that the moderator ask her the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

Enroll as Candidate: Melanie Kim

Melanie Kim, who is on the roll of Inquirers of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, having satisfactorily demonstrated adequate promise for ministry by presenting the statements specified in the Presbytery's policy, met with the session of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MN, and with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, is presented to the Presbytery to be examined "with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry," and to be received as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. (See Attachment B)

The committee **recommends** that **Melanie Kim** be enrolled as a candidate for Teaching Elder and that the moderator ask her the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

ATTACHMENT A**Statement of Motivation****Barbara England**

God is calling me to do many things in ministry and God's plan for me continually unfolds as I continue my faith journey. In preparing to attend seminary I was often asked to explain what type of ministry I planned to pursue and what gifts I would bring to that ministry. My response was, "I believe that my calling is to minister to victims of trauma, to help stop globalization and to seek justice for all of God's people. The gifts I bring to this ministry are compassion, intelligence and a firm belief that all of the experiences in my life have been leading up to this point." What I envisioned was breaking down political walls of oppression and ministering to people affected by natural or human-made disasters.

Since my call is to mission work I have determined that I will probably need to be a tent-maker. Before coming to seminary I did not think highly of the Apostle Paul but, after studying his life and work, I am happy to find myself following his example. There are not very many mission/social justice positions that pay enough money to support someone and I have grown accustomed to a certain life-style. My job as Interim Program Manager, for the Program in Christian Spirituality at SFTS, allows me to work with people who are discerning a call to be spiritual directors, plan retreats for preachers, to work on charity projects, volunteer for various non-profit organizations and preach at local churches.

I believe it is my call to reach individuals that do not belong to a regular church. On several occasions I have spoken with people that do not consider themselves to be a Christian because they do not attend church. In working with them I have found that they are some of the best Christians I have ever met and that they just haven't found a church that matches their style.

I personally believe that the best way to share the gospel, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ, is by living and demonstrating the attributes Christ endowed. I believe that by setting a good example others will want to hear about the Jesus we want to share with them. Working side-by-side with people in soup lines, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and sharing our personal life stories with others is the best way to witness God's love, the scriptures and specifically the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I would not consider myself an evangelist but I am not afraid to discuss issues of social justice, globalization, war or torture with anyone who is willing to listen. By combining these topics with the teachings of Christ I believe I can, and do, witness about the good news of Jesus Christ. I also believe that God wants us to address the issues that are hurting creation. The gospel has not changed in 2000 years but the way in which Christians witness the good news of Jesus Christ must change in order to fit the context of the 21st century.

I believe that God, or the Holy Spirit calls everyone, each and every day. We are all blessed with different talents that help us to respond to this call. It is up to each individual if they choose to answer or not. It is my belief that, before we are born, God determines our calling and waits for us to answer. If we ignore our calling for too long I believe the Holy Spirit will step in and gently nudge us in the right direction. This is my belief as I have witnessed it in my own life and calling.

ATTACHMENT B**Statement of Motivation****Melanie Kim**

Having grown up in the church as the daughter of a pastor, I was actively involved in the life of the church. I served as an officer for our Youth group and also used my gifts for singing in the praise and worship team. I was greatly influenced and shaped by the older college leaders who led bible study, led retreats and shared in fellowship. However, when I went to college, I wanted to distance myself from the identity that I felt at the time was placed upon me. For a few years, I fell away from being authentically engaged in the life of the church. I was doing my own thing and making some poor decisions. I never stopped praying or believing. However, in this season of being lost and trying to find my own stubborn way, I carried a lot of guilt and feelings of unworthiness to come before God.

God had allowed me to come to the end of myself when the relationship I was in was over. Although the relationship was short lived, it was a dark time. It was in this place that God was asking me to let go of this area of my life and relinquish control over to Him. In that act of surrender, I knew that I was done doing it my way. I was God's- all of me. It was during this time that I became very serious about living out my faith. I made going to church a priority and being active again was the next step. I had the opportunity to participate in my first mission trip during this season. I studied God's word voraciously with new eyes and a more mature spirit. I grew in my knowledge of theology and scripture through studying and worship.

Eventually, I ended up at a Young Adults Ministry where I felt that God was asking me to continue to be a part of this community. I believe that I was being instructed to stay, to love, to serve and to lead them. The Lord promised me I would be given everything I needed to love them and sure enough, my love for this group deepened. Within a few months, the Young Adults Pastor asked me to serve on their leadership council where we prayed, discerned and cast a vision for the ministry. We did mission work in the Dominican Republic and I helped lead community outreach efforts. It was within this faith community that I felt God's call to seminary and vocational ministry. I served that community for over two years and it was in that time that I was affirmed for my gifts for pastoral care and teaching. Interestingly, it wasn't until I finally heard it from my father, who had remained rather quiet throughout the whole journey of discernment, that I realized that God was indeed calling me into ministry and not the counseling route that I was pursuing.

God had quite literally stripped me of everything that I had come to rely on as far as work and a career in the secular environment and left me begging for a sign. I literally prayed this prayer on my knees "Lord, I will do anything! I will go anywhere if you just tell me what you desire of my life." I was finally ready to hear God's call. I knew that God had placed me with this young adult ministry to be used and to develop gifts for ministry. I desired to be further trained and I wanted to study so I started looking at seminaries. Concurrently, my membership at Plymouth Presbyterian Church afforded me the opportunity to participate in leading a few of the Adult Education classes and gave me a more intergenerational experience in worship and ministry. I was so grateful for the ways that Pastor Ewen supported me in my sense of call to both seminary and for ministry as a whole. He encouraged discussion and plugged me into opportunities to serve in the church. The support of the Plymouth Presbyterian Church has been steadfast.

Although I remain a member from a distance due to my studies, I have been able to write the congregation bi-annually and share the things that are happening in seminary and ministry. Most recently when I was home, I was able to preach and help lead worship. It was a full circle moment. Two summers of doing pulpit supply in both in 2010 and 2011, a year-long internship at First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg, PA, as well as the number of opportunities to serve in worship at seminary all prepared me to blossom before the congregation that was supporting me and endorsing me. I know that from all of these contexts, I continue to be encouraged and affirmed in my gifts for ministry. Furthermore, the call that I feel that has been placed on my life in service to the church as minister of Word and Sacrament is truly an honor and an irrevocable joy.