

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 Report to Presbytery
May 10, 2011

REPORTS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Annual Consultations:

The committee held annual consultation(s) as specified in the Form of Government (G-14.0421) with the following candidates and inquirers, who have filed their annual written report with the Presbytery as required by the Presbytery's manual. The committee **VOTED** to continue them on the rolls

NAME	STATUS	CHURCH NAME
Jennifer Miles	Candidate	The House of Hope, St. Paul
Faith Kelly	Candidate	First Presbyterian, Red Wing
Michael Gross	Inquirer	Aldrich Avenue, Minneapolis

2011 Annual Report:

Candidates

Allen, Kerri (Dayton Avenue, St. Paul)	Louisv'109
Bae, Jiyeon (Korean, Brooklyn Center)	Luther '02
Foels, Jeff (First, Stillwater)	McCormick '10
Hein, Sara Berry (Hope, Richfield)	Princeton '10
Hooker, Sarah (Westminster, Minneapolis)	Columbia '08
Johnson, Lisa J. (Le Sueur, Le Sueur)	Dubuque '10
Kelly, Faith (First, Red Wing)	Bethel (Grad)
Kendig, Anna (Westminster, Minneapolis)	McCormick '10
Larson, Karen (St. Luke, Wayzata)	United '11
Lewis, Russell (Spirit of Life, Apple Valley)	Dubuque '08
Lundberg, Robert (Christ, Edina)	Bethel '06
Miles, Jennifer (The House of Hope, St. Paul)	United '09
Nelson, John (CAN, Columbia Heights)	Luther '10
Prakasim, Risley (CAN, Columbia Heights)	Luther '09
Smith, Sheila (First, Stillwater)	Luther '01
Tyykila, Steve (Knox, St. Paul)	UTS '10
Whipple, Kathleen (Church of Master, Coon Rapids)	Bethel '10

Inquirers

Chang, Hae (CAN, Columbia Heights)	Graduate
Cochran, Megan (Westminster, Minneapolis)	McCormick '12
Commerford, Dan (Edina, Christ)	Union '11
England, Barbara (Peace, St. Louis Park)	SFTS '10
Franklin, Dan (Westminster, Minneapolis)	Luther? '14
Gross, Michael (Aldrich, Minneapolis)	Graduate
Gyura, Michael J. (First, Rochester)	Princeton '12
Ireland, Michael (Church of the Way, Shoreview)	United '12
Kim, Hanna (CAN, Columbia Heights)	
Kim, Melanie (Plymouth, Plymouth)	Pittsburgh
Oaks, Cody Lewis (CAN, Columbia Heights)	Princeton '12
Parrish, Tara (Kwanzaa, Minneapolis)	United '12
Ross, Anthony Jermaine (CAN, Columbia Heights)	United '11
Sevlie, Joa (Church of Master, Coon Rapids)	Bethel '10
Tyler, Alanna (Kwanzaa, Minneapolis)	Luther '10
Wunder, Cyndi (Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis)	Luther

SUMMARY: (May 09, 2010 to May 10, 2011)

17 inquirers; 16 candidates

13 of the inquirers and candidates are men; 20 of the inquirers and candidates are women

17 inquirers and candidates come from churches of 300 members or less

8 inquirers and candidates come from churches of 301-999 members

8 inquirers and candidates come from churches of 1,000 members or more

1 inquirer and 2 candidates come from churches outside of the metropolitan area

2 inquirers have graduated from seminary; 16 candidates have graduated from seminary

2 Inquirers will graduate from seminary in 2011; 1 candidate will graduate from seminary in 2011

There are 6 new inquirers since May 9, 2010

4 inquirers have become candidates since May 9, 2010

3 candidates have been ordained since May 9, 2010 (names of ordained)

The Rev. Karin Craven

The Rev. Deborah Wilkinson

The Rev. Anne Veldhuisen

1 inquirer and 1 candidate have withdrawn since May 9, 2010 (names of withdrawn)

Stephen Piper
Mary Caplinger

1 candidate has transferred their covenant relationship to another presbytery since May 9, 2010

Sarah Brouwer

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Enroll as an Inquirer: Matthew Voytek

Matthew Voytek, member of St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Wayzata, has fulfilled the constitutional requirements of G-14.0403 (active member of a particular church for at least six months) and the Presbytery's policy (endorsement by the Session; interview with the Committee of Presbytery to consider the application to be enrolled as an inquirer), and is now presented to the Presbytery to be enrolled as inquirer. See attachment A for his statement of what it means to be an inquirer.

The Committee **recommends** that Matthew Voytek be enrolled as an inquirer.

Enroll as a Candidate: Daniel Commerford

Daniel Commerford, 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 (G-14.0405), and meeting with the session of Christ Presbyterian Church, Edina, MN, and with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, is presented to the Presbytery to be examined "with respect to his 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 Daniel Commerford be enrolled as a candidate for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament and that the moderator ask him the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

Provision for Alternate Examination Procedure

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry requests approval by Presbytery for an alternate administration of the Bible Content Examination for a candidate under care who has documented test anxiety.

CPM has received a formal request with documentation from the candidate, and has determined that the candidate meets the guidelines set by the Vocations office for alternative assessment:

- having failed the exam at least twice
- having received documented treatment for test anxiety;
- being otherwise ready for final assessment, having passed all other exams.

The examination will be:

- written by CPM, using questions from archived exams.
- the alternative exam will cover the same scope of material at the same level of difficulty as the regular exam.
- administered at United Theological Seminary
- graded by an unbiased evaluator.

ATTACHMENT A

Matt Voytek

What it Means to be an Inquirer

A core aspect of Presbyterian identity is that we believe that we best discern the will of God in community. In practical terms, this means that recognizing a call to do God's work specifically in the context of the Church is not something that happens in isolation, but rather done with intention and consultation with others who can judge whether the gifts of one of our number are appropriate for ministry within our denomination. Being an inquirer, then, means that I am reaching out to you, my denomination, to help me discern whether I really do have a call to ministry. – I had a transformational experience of the beloved community in the context of a high school youth group trip to Montreat. That transformational experience drove me to do my undergraduate work at Macalester College, seeing in that institution a reflection of my desire to make a difference in response to that transformational experience. At Macalester, my spiritual formation continued under the care of the very talented chaplains there. During my last year at Mac, I found myself called to attend seminary, during which under the care of the talented faculty at UTS, I accepted that there was something in me that deeply wanted to serve God through the Church.

ATTACHMENT B

Dan Comerford

Statement of Motivation

Growing up in a family that had a strong Christian faith, I always had a solid foundation that encouraged my spiritual development. When I was four years old, I remember having a conversation with my mom about making Jesus Christ my lord and savior. It was a short and simple interaction that gave me the opportunity to express my desire and my initial beliefs about God. Looking back, that moment was the beginning of a life where my faith became the core element of my personal identity. Ever since, I have continuously strived to connect my experiences with my beliefs and faith.

I first began to sense a call to ministry when I was in youth group. Being placed into several student-leadership opportunities gave me the chance to practice my theology by encouraging others in areas of faith. Throughout middle and high school, I continued to feel the push to seek ministry as a full time call as I continued to serve in different leadership roles. After high school, I began to search for a place that best shared my beliefs about God, humanity, and the world. I spent time in non-denominational, Assemblies of God, and Baptist churches, finally finding the Presbyterian Church and realizing my beliefs are closest to the Reformed tradition. After joining Christ Presbyterian Church, I was encouraged by the pastors there to continue developing my sense of call in seminary.

I believe leaders in the church are called to minister to the congregation as well as to people outside the church who need to experience God's redeeming love. I feel God is calling me to minister to others in this manner. I hope to be a leader who walks with the congregation, helping and guiding them in their faith journey along the way. This sense of calling has been confirmed in several experiences in both my CPE and parish internships. I continue to be amazed that, despite our brokenness, God still seeks us. I am excited to enter into this calling where I can help others know and experience God's redeeming and sustaining love.