

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 Report to Presbytery
Sept. 13, 2011

REPORTS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Annual Consultations:

The committee held annual consultations as specified in the Form of Government (G-14.0421) *Book of Order 2009-2011*, with the following inquirers, who have filed their annual written 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
Melanie Kim	Inquirer	Plymouth, Plymouth, MN
Robert Lundberg	Candidate	Christ, Edina, MN
Tara Parrish	Inquirer	Kwanzaa, Minneapolis, MN

Transfer of Candidacy

The Committee voted to approve the transfer of Dana Caraway, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, to the care of Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Ms. Caraway will transfer her local church membership to a congregation within the bounds of PTCA.

Remove from Rolls: Sheila Smith

The committee **VOTED** to remove the name of Sheila Smith, Candidate, Stillwater Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, MN, from the Roll of Candidates, at her own written request.

Remove from Rolls: Michael Gyura

The committee **VOTED** to remove the name of Michael Gyura, First Church Rochester, MN, from the Roll of Candidates, at his own written request.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Enroll as a Candidate: Megan Cochran

Megan Cochran, 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 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, 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 **Megan Cochran** be enrolled as a candidate for the Ministry of

the Word and Sacrament and that the moderator ask her the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

Approve for Ordination: Kerri Allen

Kerri Allen, a candidate, certified ready to receive a call, has met all requirements for ordination and is currently serving at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois through their Lilly Endowment Residency Program.

The Committee **recommends** that, pending examination by the Presbytery of Chicago on Sept. 20, Kerri Allen be ordained to the ministry of teaching elder. If the way be clear, such ordination shall take place on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, St. Paul. The Commission shall consist of:

Rev. David Stewart, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church
Rev. Linda Loving, member at large

Ruling Elder, Karen Finney, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder, Janet Engeswick of Central Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder, Vince Thomas, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Kerri Allen
Statement of Faith

I believe in one, triune God: Creator, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that God is the creator of all things, which God called good. In spite of being part of God's good creation, humans chose a path of sin, moving away from the God who initiates relationship, and towards destruction of self and others. Through God's grace God calls us back into loving relationship, and Christians are called to respond to this grace with praise and humility, giving all glory and honor to God. We are called to respond with faithful care for all of God's creation – human and otherwise.

I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, both fully human and fully divine. As the embodiment of both, Jesus reconciles the world, showing humanity a new way of life – life on earth and eternally. I believe that Jesus was crucified, dead, buried, and rose again; this gives me faith, hope, and love for this life and for life eternal. I believe that the Holy Spirit is God's presence everywhere in our world, dwelling amongst all of God's creation.

I believe that both humans and institutions are sinful. I believe that sin draws us from our relationship with God and from what God intended for us, and as such, living as sinners is choosing a lie over truth. In spite of this, God continues to come towards us, offering a new way of life on earth and life eternal. An active and dynamic God calls us to respond by being active in the world, seeking to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and provide practical and spiritual nourishment in our communities. I believe in God's power to transform individuals and powers and principalities, leading both to repentance and redemption.

I believe in two sacraments as instituted by Christ: baptism and the Lord's Supper. The sacraments are outward signs of God's grace and promises, presenting to us the living Christ, and sealing us in union with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The power rests with God, and not in the water, bread, or wine, yet these sacraments provide tangible depictions of what God has done and is doing for us.

The sacrament of baptism is a sign and seal of God's faithful promise. Baptism initiates entrance into the covenant community of the church, focused not just on the individual baptized, but also on the whole of the community. It is testimony of God's grace and of covenant with God and covenant with one another.

The Lord's Supper likewise testifies to God's grace. It is done in celebration of Christ's last meal with his disciples and spiritually nourishes believers by the power of the Holy Spirit. As believers partake in the bread and wine, the living Christ is spiritually present, feeding us and uniting us with him, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that salvation comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, through the grace of God. I believe that God initiates relationship and that salvation is God's work alone.

I believe that the Bible is the Word of God and central to our life and faith. Scripture reveals a myriad of ways in which God reveals divine will to humans. It is instructive for understanding God's ways in our world. In this, I believe that Christians must rely on the Holy Spirit for interpretation of Scripture in our contemporary context.

I believe in one catholic church, all those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The church is gathered as the Body of Christ and unified by the Holy Spirit; Christ is present in Spirit and Word. As head of the church, Christ calls the church into being, giving it faith, life and authority for mission. The mission of the church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world. Likewise Christ calls the church to provide sanctuary, nurture and form disciples to carry out the mission of the church in the world.