

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
MEETING AT BETHLEHEM, LOGANSPOUR ON DECEMBER 1, 2016**

Moderator Catherine Moran (TE, at-large) called COM to order at 10:05 am EST, led the Bible study and discussion of Romans 12:1-12 and F-3.02 Historic Principles of Church Order. She closed the discussion with opening prayer. COM members present included Roger Hartzler (CRE, Kouts), David Wood (TE, at-large), Steve Quinlan (Vice Moderator, TE, Peru), Rebecca Kuiken (TE, Elkhart First), Stan Kessler (TE, HR), Toby Mueller (TE, First Valpo), Louis Sandos (TE, HR), Guy Wahlman (RE, Christ, Winfield), David Lawrence (TE, W. Lebanon), Ann Williams (TE, HR), Linda Long (RE, Valpo and Stated Clerk), guest Adi Veenendaal (RE, La Porte, incoming COM), Sarah Bishop, (TE, South Bend First), and Jennifer Lewis Burns (TE, Visioning & Connecting Leader). Judy Friend (RE, Peru) and Jeff Deardorff (TE, HR) have resigned.

ACTIONS of COM as a commission:

- **Approved** COM minutes for November 3, 2016
- Approved Steve Quinlan (TE, Peru) to attend Week II of MALT Transitional Pastor training
- Approved transfer of Will Roberts (TE) to Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
- Approved terms of call for teaching elder Lucia Oerter to serve as installed pastor of **Central** Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, effective February 15, 2017, and requested her dismissal from New Covenant Presbytery:

Salary	54,000
Housing allowance	24,000
Deferred income	5,000
Other benefits	500
<i>Effective salary</i>	<i>83,500</i>
Board of Pensions	30,477.50
SECA	6,387.75
Vouchered auto expense	2,500
Vouchered business expense	1,000
Vouchered study leave expense	3,000
Vouchered moving expenses	6,000
Vacation	Five weeks
Study leave	Two weeks

- Accepted ending date of February 14, 2017, for temporary covenants for David Comstock and Barbara Kenley at **Central**, Lafayette. Appointed Ann Williams to moderate congregational meeting to issue call to Lucia Oerter on January 8, 2017.
- Interviewed and approved terms of call for teaching elder Jane Young to serve as transitional pastor of First Presbyterian Church, **Crown Point**, effective January 9, 2017, and requested her dismissal from Chicago Presbytery. Expectation is that she is likely to serve longer term as transitional pastor for church with history of conflict and commitment to transformation.

Salary	48,000
Housing allowance	20,000

<i>Effective Salary</i>	<i>68,000</i>
SECA	5,202
Vouchered auto expenses	1,300
Vouchered business expenses	1,000
Vouchered study leave expenses	1,500
Vouchered moving expenses	4,000
Vacation	Five weeks
Study leave	Two weeks

- Approved payment of approximately \$100 for lunches for CRE gatherings
- Interviewed Deb Parker of BC Life Ministries, Inc. who has been serving as pulpit supply for Earl Park and took no action to approve her to a pastoral position. **Earl Park** will continue to support the Compass Ministry that she heads in Fowler. Approved Louis Sandos to moderate session and congregational meeting on January 8 2017, to consider options of Deb Parker as pulpit supply for 7 of 8 weeks; or enter preparation for ministry as an Inquirer through PC(USA).
- Approved letter from COM to congregations describing its new program for **Church Advocates**. Named Toby Mueller as coordinator and scribe for Advocates program.
- Reviewed CPM plan of care for Candidate Grace Hammer to support her preparation for examination for ordination at the May Assembly and approved a six-month temporary covenant as Candidate under care of Presbytery of Wabash Valley for her to preach and provide pastoral care, with teaching elder to be named to **Flora** session and administer sacraments and perform weddings. Grace may be enrolled with Board of Pensions as a staff member of Flora. Affirmed appointment of Ruby Kleymann (TE, First, Pulaski) as mentor for Grace Hammer and presbytery moderator for Flora. Marcia Smith-Wood has volunteered to provide spiritual direction. Key discussion points:
 - CPM is advised to prepare examination questions in each area of ministry, rather than just one to initiate assembly examination.
 - COM needs to develop clear, actionable strategy for identifying clergy for small congregations when they are unable to find and support appropriate pastoral leadership on their own
 - COM needs to provide training for TCC/Advocates/relationship with COM to address needs for pastoral leadership with appropriate paperwork, checklists, coaching.
 - David Lawrence reports that the Carroll County churches he has been convening are interested in some kind of parish model that includes Grace Hammer and Flora.
 - Grace is to prepare new statement of faith and to attend February Assembly as part of her covenant with COM and Flora.
- Approved motion (with 12-1 vote) that Presbytery COM will prepare and state its clear criteria for demonstrated competency for ordination as teaching elders in Presbytery Church (USA).

Presbytery of Wabash Valley COM Report

- Approved appointment of David Lawrence as moderator for **Delphi**. Catherine Moran will preach January 1, 2017.
- Approved appointment of Jennifer Lewis as moderator for **Pierceton** congregational meeting January 29, 2017.

INFORMATION and PENDING MATTERS:

- Received exit interview of John Ritchie (TE, formerly Huntington)
- Received information about Seminary Debt Assistance Program and 2001 presbytery policy on candidate indebtedness for small congregations and relatively new pastors
- Received information about Presbyterian Foundation program for Project Regeneration
- Received revised terms of call for Sue Babovec (TE), chaplain for Peabody Retirement Community:

Salary	46,032
Housing allowance	12,300
<i>Effective Salary</i>	<i>58,332</i>
Vouchered study leave expenses	500
Vacation	Five weeks
Study leave	Two weeks

- Reviewed calendar of reporting for Church Advocates and will update for January meeting
- Received request from **Fowler** PNC to reactivate its PNC to seek pastoral leadership and appointment of TCC.
- Received written report from Stan Kessler concerning his contacts with congregations in **Angola, Auburn, Avilla, Garrett** and **Hudson**.
- Jennifer Burns Lewis, Catherine Moran and Toby Mueller will serve as temporary TCC for congregations without pastors awaiting appointment of trained TCCs.
- Received spring 2017 schedule of classes at Christian Theological Seminary and await resolution of requirements for **Geetingsville** pastors to take courses in polity and reformed theology. Ann Williams and Catherine Moran will meet with the Montgomery's to plan compliance with covenant for additional training.
- Acknowledged end of commission for Jody Burks as CRE serving as pastor for Bethel Shannondale.

PENDING:

- Training for Church Advocates; joint training plan with Synod
- Final six-month covenant for Linda Skaggs as temporary pastor for Highland
- Covenant for Grace Hammer
- Revised covenant for Rose Taul as transitional pastor for Hebron.

COM adjourned with prayer at approximately 2:00 pm EST.

Next in-person COM meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2017, 10 am ES at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 5588 N State Rd 25 Logansport, IN 46947

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

MEETING AT BETHLEHEM, LOGANSPORT ON JANUARY 5, 2017

Moderator Catherine Moran (TE, at-large) called COM to order at 10:10 am EST, led the Bible study and discussion of 2 Peter 1:2 and proposed Directory for Worship W-1.0101. Discussion focused on meaning of “sacred space,” transformational space of worship, enigmatic relationship between “sacred space” and Immanuel, i.e. God with us. She closed the discussion with opening prayer.

COM members also present included Roger Hartzler (CRE, Kouts), David Wood (TE, at-large), Steve Quinlan (Vice Moderator, TE, Peru), Stan Kessler (TE, HR), Louis Sandos (TE, HR), Guy Wahlman (RE, Christ, Winfield), David Lawrence (TE, W. Lebanon), Ann Williams (TE, HR), Linda Long (RE, Valpo and Stated Clerk), Adi Veenendaal (RE, La Porte), and Jennifer Lewis Burns (TE, Visioning & Connecting Leader); guest and Advocate Carrie Munson (RE, Deer Creek). Excused: Rebecca Kuiken (TE, Elkhart First), Toby Mueller (TE, First Valpo), and Sarah Bishop, (TE, South Bend First).

ACTIONS of COM as a commission:

- **Approved** COM minutes for December 1, 2016
- **Validated specialized ministries** of Terry McBride (Michiana Youth Ministries), Paul Myhre (Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion at Wabash College) and Sue Babovec (Chaplain, Peabody Retirement Community).
- **Approved** covenant for **Flora** and Candidate **Grace Hammer** as full-time temporary pastor for six months, limited to pastoral care, worship leadership and preaching and appointing a teaching elder to moderator session and congregational meetings and to administer sacraments, effective December 1, 2016 to May 30, 2017. Terms:

Salary	16,250/six months
403(b) contribution	1250
Effective Salary	17,500
Board of Pensions (staff)	6317/six months
Vouchered mileage allowance	416/year
Vouchered business expenses	209
Vouchered continuing education expenses	558
Study leave	One week
Vacation	Two weeks

- **Approved COM/CPM joint plan** of study and review for **Grace Hammer** to include study with Ruby Kleymann on practical ministry; Carol McDonald on reformed theology and Presbyterian polity; Steve Quinlan on sacraments; and Maria Rutland as liaison between CPM and COM. She will prepare a new Statement of Faith, attend February Presbytery Assembly, and meet with COM in February and April, with examination for ordination scheduled for May Assembly 2017.
- **Approved** role of Advocate, to incorporate work of transitional care consultants in order to provide some continuity of relationships between COM and congregations. Received revised schedule and rescheduling of reporting by Advocates to COM. Received and

reviewed Advocate reports from David Lawrence, Louis Sandos, Stan Kessler, and Toby Mueller.

- **Approved Ministry Information Form** proposed by Westminster, Munster for its search for an Associate Pastor.
- **Approved Ministry Information Form** proposed by Immanuel, Schererville for its search for a Transitional Pastor.
- **Approved creation of COM taskforce** led by Jennifer to prepare tools for discerning specifics of creative ministry and pastoral leaderships, and to outline process of who needs to talk to whom and when as presbytery seeks to support connections among congregations, large and small, and their missions to others, ministries to one another, and pastoral leadership. Intent is to move beyond visioning and talk to thinking through how to implement being church in new and creative ways. Advocates will serve as the catalyst for conversations. COM notes 28 congregations currently without pastoral leadership, with only a few in midst of search process; some seem ready to explore new options.
- Made clear that under the principles of the Covenant of Closure for a departing pastor, it is no longer appropriate for a former CRE to worship with the congregation she served and best to return to the congregation of which she is a member.

INFORMATION:

- Spent nearly an hour and a half of training and conversation led by Jennifer on concepts and skills of newly created role of an Advocate named for each congregation by reviewing introduction of COM adopted Handbook, including glossary and section on the role of presbytery as pastor, counselor and advisor, emphasizing the Advocates' opportunity to "nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ" In G-3.0301. Two rubrics: "Fear not!" and "Keep in touch!"
- COM consensus is to spend morning portion of its meetings on training led by Jennifer, continuing to work through the COM Handbook and developing revisions as needed. Consensus was to read the section on the array of pastoral relationships for training at February COM meeting.
- Received quarterly actions and reflections report of Transitional Pastor Lyle Ewing about his work with First, Monticello and preparation for electing a PNC.
- Received Stated Clerk's report and note of polity questions received.
- COM cited again the need for major revisions to presbytery website to improve access to resources for congregations and presbytery volunteers.
- Discussed a number of church in process of updating mission self-assessments, developing ministry information forms, discerning future pastoral relationships, and several pending requirements of new pastors not yet being fulfilled.
- Catherine and Jennifer are negotiating plans for 2017 boundaries and ethics training.

Next in-person COM meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2017, 10 am ES at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 5588 N State Rd 25 Logansport, IN 46947

Respectfully,
Linda Long, Stated Clerk

**Commission on Ministry
Meeting at Bethlehem, Logansport on February 2, 2017**

Moderator Catherine Moran (TE, at-large) opened COM with prayer at 10:05 am EST, and led the discussion of Isaiah 2:2-3 and proposed Directory for Worship W-2.0201. Discussion focused on the inclusive language of worship “together,” “all baptized,” “all the people.” Stan Kessler (TE, HR) closed the discussion with prayer. COM members also present included Roger Hartzler (CRE, Kouts), Steve Quinlan (Vice Moderator, TE, Peru), Louis Sandos (TE, HR), Guy Wahlman (RE, Christ, Winfield), David Lawrence (TE, W. Lebanon), Sarah Bishop, (TE, South Bend First), Ann Williams (TE, HR), and Adi Veenendaal (RE, La Porte), with staff support from Linda Long (RE, Valpo and Stated Clerk) and Jennifer Lewis Burns (TE, Visioning & Connecting Leader). Excused: Rebecca Kuiken (TE, Elkhart First) and Toby Mueller (TE, First Valpo). David Wood (TE, at-large) has resigned.

Jennifer reviewed the January training on being an Advocate for congregations (no longer called “TCC”), and led COM members for an hour through the section of the COM Manual on options for pastoral relationships, all with three dimensions: the pastor, the congregation and/or its session, and the presbytery through its COM. Pastors may be installed or temporary, and COM reviewed possible configurations of pastoral relationships including commissioned ruling elders, ministers of other denominations, immigrant ministers, validated specialized ministry and other contexts. To enhance congregations during times of change, COM may focus on four key areas: congregation’s purpose, its passion, its possibilities, and its partners. Among the 80 congregations of Wabash Valley, 26 have vacancies, 26 are able to support full time ministry, and 54, part-time pastoral leadership.

ACTIONS of COM as a commission:

- **Approved** COM minutes for January 5, 2017
- **Approved** changes in full-time Terms of Call for TE Ericka Kilbourne, Michigan City, effective 1/1/2017:

Salary	38,404.80
Housing allowance	12,000
Deferred Income	1,200
Other unvouchered allowances	4,800
<i>Effective Salary</i>	<i>56,404.80</i>
SECA less than 50%	3,855.97
Vouchered auto expenses	1,000
Vouchered business expenses	600
Vouchered study leave expenses	500
Vouchered expenses, not specified	900
Vacation	Four weeks
Study leave	Two weeks

- **Approved** terms of call for Rick Ryan, CRE with Elston, 20 hours/week effective 1/1/2017:

Salary	6,000
Housing allowance	14,400
<i>Effective Salary</i>	<i>20,400</i>
Vacation	Four weeks
Study leave	Two weeks

- **Denied** request from Fowler to have a non-denominational pastor serve Communion and encouraged them to contact a teaching elder or one of the commissioned ruling elders authorized to serve communion to small congregations without pastors.
- **Interviewed and approved** the Rev. Ron Wunsch, living in Lafayette and honorably retired minister of the United Church of Christ and ministry partner with PC(USA) under the Formula of Agreement, to be listed as available pulpit supply, and upon written confirmation from the UCC of his status with that denomination, to become a temporary minister member of Presbytery of Wabash Valley who is authorized to serve communication when he serves as pulpit supply at the invitation of session.
- **Approved** request of First, Monticello to build upon their Journey of the People of God transformation work as their mission study supplemented by MissionInsite data, and to elect a PNC to begin work on their Ministry Information Form with Advocate Jeff Cover (TE, Rensselaer).
- **Approved** request from Sunnyside Presbyterian Church to create a temporary pastoral position, Pastoral Resident, and approved preliminary call to Candidate Taylor Hall to proceed to examination for ordination, and for Session to present temporary covenant and terms of call for COM approval prior to that examination.
- **Approved** request from Huntington as a small congregation to elect a PNC to develop a Ministry Information Form seeking a Transitional Pastor through the Church Leadership Connection matching system.
- **Approved** request from Pierceton to elect a PNC and develop its Ministry Information Form based upon its mission study completed just two years ago with any necessary updates after being without pastoral leadership for many months.
- **Interviewed and approved** PNC of Garrett to proceed with its Candidate for ordination to its full-time, called and installed position, pending approval from Presbytery of Wabash Valley CPM, and to develop his covenant and terms of call. Current understanding is that candidate wishes to be examined and ordained in his presbytery of care, then transferred as a teaching elder to be installed by Wabash Valley.

INFORMATION:

- Reviewed pastoral needs for Huntington, Fowler and Lake Village.
- Assigned volunteers to serve as Advocates for congregations assigned to COM members who have now resigned.
- Named teaching elder moderators for congregations without pastoral leadership.

PENDING:

- Advocates reports scheduled for February
- Annual reports from teaching elders
- Boundaries & ethics training dates

***Next in-person COM meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2017, 10 am EST
at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 5588 N State Rd 25 Logansport, IN 46947***

Respectfully,
Linda Long
Stated Clerk