

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

September 22, 2020

The Committee on Preparation met on August 4, 2020 and submits the following report:

**FOR INFORMATION:**

The committee met with Commissioned Ruling Elder Candidates, **Josh Archey** and **Debbie Lennis** to conduct Final Assessments. The examinations of Josh and Debbie were sustained and it has been reported to the Committee on Ministry that they are now Eligible Commissioned Ruling Elder.

The committee met with **Bonnie Bakewell**, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Northville, and enrolled her as an Inquirer.

**FOR ACTION:**

1. Having met with and examined Alexis Allum, a Candidate under care of Detroit Presbytery, the CPM recommends that the Presbytery conduct an examination for ordination to the Ordered Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Alexis received a M.Div. from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and has received a call to serve as a Resident Minister at Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis. Her biography and Statement of Faith included in this packet. The Presbytery is invited to ask questions of her Statement of Faith or in relation to her preparedness for ordained ministry.

Ordination to ordered ministry of teaching elder is an act of the whole church carried out by the presbytery, setting apart a person to ordered ministry. Such a person shall have fulfilled the ordination requirements of the presbytery of care and received the call of God to service to a congregation or other work in the mission of the church that is acceptable to the candidate and to the presbytery of call.

(G2.0701)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mary Bahr-Jones

Rev. Edward Dunn

Co-Moderators

## Lex Allum Updated Statement of Faith

I believe in the Living God, who alongside Jesus Christ - God's only Son and our Lord - and the Holy Spirit, compose the Holy Trinity. Three-in-one, the Trinity works for the good of the world to unite humanity with God.

Humanity, created in the image of God, receives the Trinity's work. Yet sin entered human lives, separating us from God. Because we are separated from God, we required a redeeming act of love only accomplished by Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection, humanity is reunited with God. We are invited into God's kingdom, both earthly and heavenly, where God's presence is abundant and grace overflows. We are clothed in the sanctifying acts of Christ Jesus.

Union with God is given to us by the grace of God, which is manifested through compassion shown to us in Jesus and lived out in Christian community. No one is separated from God's grace and I am convinced that nothing can separate us from this gift of grace, connection with God, or love extended to each of us.

Through these communal acts of grace and love extended by God, I find salvation through Jesus Christ; freely by God's goodness, through the willing death and triumphant resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who, being fully God and fully human, took on human form to deliver us from death knowing we could not do so ourselves and reunited us with Godself. We are invited to live out this salvation and experience union with Christ here and now, and forevermore.

The Holy Spirit is the tangible manifestation of our connection to Christ and the grace of God. Through the Holy Spirit we come to know God and experience what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. We are inspired, transformed, and brought together by this bond of the Holy Spirit, which we learn about through scripture and experience in relationship. The Holy Bible is God's inspired Word and a gift given by God, lived out in Jesus, and sustained for us in the Spirit.

I believe we are called to live in God's grace and we do so in the Church. With the community of believers, we proclaim Jesus as Lord and confess the saving acts of God. We worship, serve, and gain a better understanding of our Christian Vocation communally, affirming the truths of the scriptures, which helps reveal the life and nature of God.

I believe in the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, which assist in bringing this heavenly promise to our earthly reality; where Christ meets us intimately and communally, connecting us to all the Saints. Through these sacraments we are joined together in the Body of Christ. In Baptism we affirm God's kingdom on earth and are refreshed in the redeeming waters of God's promise of new life. In these waters we are baptized into Christ, claimed by God, and made members of the Church. Through the Eucharist we come together with one another in community at the Table of God, which belongs only to God and are renewed in Christ.

## Lex Allum Autobiography:

Born and raised just outside of Rochester, Michigan, I attended seminary in Austin, Texas and now serve Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana as a Lake Fellow in Parish Ministry.

Growing up in the Midwest as an only child to Stu and Christine Allum, I had a wonderful childhood and one filled with faith. From birth until my early Twenties, I was raised in, and practiced the tradition of, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. From a young age I quickly learned the foundations of a Christian faith and for as long as I can remember, I have found peace, strength, and inspiration in holding fast to my belief in God. I attended LCMS schools until I enrolled at Michigan State University and was an active member in Lutheran churches all the way through college, serving in many leadership roles.

I became Presbyterian post my time at MSU while living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and working as a Peer Minister for First Presbyterian Church. While I was not originally PC(USA) when I entered my time at First Pres Ann Arbor, my faith was well on its way to being formed – and Reformed - in adulthood. Through my time with youth, conversations with mentors, and the unmistakable formation that comes through participating in ministry, I became Presbyterian and began my journey towards seminary.

I matriculated at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the Fall of 2017. While the weather in Austin took some getting used to, the seminary itself felt like a fit right away; God's call in my life was unmistakable. Through my time at APTS, I grew exponentially in my spiritual life and my understanding of my call. I became an active member of the seminary community and felt enriched daily.

My call to ministry over the past years became solidified in my seminary experience and ministerial positions. I am convinced of my call to be a part of the mission of God and an advocate for the Body of Christ and hope to continuously learn and grow throughout my ministry.

While attending seminary I worked a few jobs. I was both a Research Assistant and a Resident Assistant at the seminary along with working downtown Austin as a waitress and at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church as a seminary intern. While busy, these jobs continuously helped me develop and improve my interpersonal and ministerial skills. I learned – and continue to learn - how to be authentic in all situations.

As of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 I work as a Lake Fellow at Second Presbyterian Church. The past four weeks have been both tough and lifegiving and I am looking forward to serving alongside the members of this congregation.

I am forever thankful for my family and for their constant support and encouragement in my life; all of whom have been supporters of my journey through seminary towards ordination and encourage me to strive for the best version of myself. Without any of these individuals I would have never have found the confidence to navigate ministry with the confidence and self-assuredness I possess. I am also grateful for my cute and very lovable cats, Luther and Beza.

Likewise, I am eternally grateful for all mentors, Pastors, congregations, seminaries, etc., who have affirmed me in ministry and continue to affirm my call. By the encouragement of all these individuals and groups of people, my ultimate goal is to serve as an Ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament, assisting in God's mission for the world. I believe that I possess gifts of ministry in faith, leadership, authenticity and wisdom, and I am looking forward to a lifetime of learning!