

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report to Presbytery February 25, 2023

- CPM removed CRET MariJo Hockley from the roll of Trainees.
- CPM sustained the Annual Consultation for Candidate Kate Mackie (St. Paul's, Livonia).
- CPM examined Candidate Kate Mackie and granted Final Assessment.
- Members of CPM met with members of COM to discuss matters of mutual concern.
- Winter Ordination Exams were administered written and graded; CPM had no candidates taking the exams this cycle.
- CPM sent a letter to Inquirers, Candidates and CRETs regarding the Exegesis Exam choice.
- CPM presents Inquirer Lon Kuehn (Starr, Royal Oak) to be examined by Presbytery for Candidacy. Biography and Statement of Faith attached.
- CPM presents Inquirer Robyn Hudgins (First, Warren) to be examined by Presbytery for examination for Candidacy. Biography and Statement of Faith attached.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Faile, chair CPM

My name is Lon Kuehn and I currently live in Berkley, MI with my 94-year-old father Fred and a Cocker Spaniel named Anna Bates Kuehn (named after the character from the television show “Downton Abbey”, being a shy rescue from a family that had kept her living in their basement). I was born and bred in the southeast Michigan area, also living for times in Grand Blanc Township, Clinton Township, and Shelby Township. I moved back to my family home when my mother’s health began to fail, passing away in 2016, and remained there as a companion for my aging father.

I have worked retail management for over 35 years, since receiving my undergraduate degree from Oakland University in Economics. I have been exploring my calling since my early college days, knowing that God had a purpose for me, but that I was being prepared for future service. I’ve described this preparation as being kept on the bench, not really “Salvation Army” yet, rather “Salvation Army Reserve.” I had been a long-time church member with Kensington Church in Troy, MI, serving on the “Discovery Team” guiding prospective new members through Christian Education and the basic theologies of why Christians believe what we believe. But I began to feel that the church had grown too rapidly, with multiple campuses being planted, and it became difficult to truly connect with many members. I believe that the Holy Spirit led me to Starr Presbyterian to receive and accept my calling to ministry with the support of the church family God had specifically chosen for me.

In 2016, I became a member of Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak, MI. I felt I had found my true church home in just a few visits, quickly becoming active in the church, and was asked to serve as an Elder at the end of that first year. I began a Starr Movie Night, hosting faith-based films and having discussions afterward. I’ve also planned and put on two “Church Revivals” hosted during the summer with an evening of food, worship, and a message held on the front lawn of the church so the public could see what was happening at our church and we even had a few neighbors walk up and join the events for the evening.

I had several conversations with my pastor, Rev. Marianne Grano, about attending seminary, being a little nervous having graduated college 33 years earlier, and being in my mid-50’s, but realizing that God does not care about the age of those he calls, he equips those he calls to service.

I accepted my calling in 2019 and began my studies at Moody Theological Seminary in Plymouth, MI. I wanted to take in person seminary classes, but remain in the area for my aging father, and I believe God was guiding me to Moody. I knew that I would need to take my Presbyterian coursework at another seminary, and Moody was encouraging my ordination path by being willing to work with me, transferring those credits towards my MDiv, being requirements for ordination. I am taking the additional required online classes needed at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

I am confident in my calling by God to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). I believe that God has delayed my calling to equip me in my years of management as head of staff, to better understand how to interact with people from a variety of life experiences and to effectively guide and manage the operations of the church to which I am called. I am called to be a servant leader in pastoral ministry, and I devote my life in service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been active with the presbytery, serving as Pulpit Supply for several churches during the past two years, and have recently completed a 16-week Field Internship with First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac focusing on Church Administration and Missions guided by Rev. Laura Kelsey.

I believe in one Triune God: God the Creator, Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit the Sustainer. They have always been united and in perfect loving relationship with one another, and they always will be. God's perfect love wished to share the love the Trinity has with others, and God spoke into being the creation of everything out of nothing in a divine act.

I believe God created humankind in the image of the Trinity, male and female they were created. Humans were created to glorify and enjoy God forever, but all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and the relationship between God and humanity was broken. No works performed by humans could repair that relationship and we fall short in God's standards.

I believe that out of the love for creation, Jesus Christ, God's only Son was sent in human form by way of miraculous birth into the world. Fully God and fully human. Jesus gathered twelve disciples to teach and prepare to carry his message to the world. While on earth Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God, performed miracles, cast out demons, and fulfilled prophetic scriptures concerning the Messiah. Jesus was condemned to die on a cross, he was crucified, and was buried. On the third day, he rose from the dead in a full resurrection of his earthly body. Jesus's death and resurrection was the atoning sacrifice for sin. Through Jesus's gift, his selfless act of mercy, humans can be reconciled and again be in perfect relationship with God. After appearing to many in resurrected form, Jesus instructed his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and to teach what he had commanded them. Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer, to them. Jesus then ascended bodily into heaven.

I believe the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost and is indwelt in all Christian believers to guide them. She works through humanity to spread the Gospel message and brings God's light into the world. The Holy Spirit connects the believers together into the Body of Christ, the church.

I believe that the disciples, through the power of the Holy Spirit sent on Pentecost, established the church, with Jesus Christ as its head, which would grow to become the holy catholic church. The church is universal and eternal. Through the Holy Spirit the church ministers two Holy Sacraments: Baptism and Communion. These are the only two sacraments and are the visible holy signs and seals commanded by God and instituted by Jesus Christ, so that by their use God may make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel and put God's seal on that promise. Through the Sacraments, God seals believers in redemption, renews our identity as the people of God, and marks us for service.

I believe that the Sacrament of Baptism is an act of God's grace, for the forgiveness of sin, and that we are claimed by the Holy Spirit in preparation to join the Body of Christ.

I believe the Sacrament of Communion is our opportunity to reflect on Jesus's sacrifice on our behalf, and we are united with Christ in Spirit through his command, "This do in remembrance of me." Through Communion, we receive the sustaining presence of Christ, remember God's covenant promise, and pledge our obedience anew.

Setting the stage: My name is Robyn Elizabeth Hudgins. I was born in Atlanta, Georgia and brought up in the Southern Baptist tradition by Jim and Annette Hudgins who were married fifty-nine years at death (both in 2020). I am the oldest child and have two brothers. I am the proud mother to my son Daniel, along with two dogs, Nora and Co-co and Loon, our cat. I graduated from Plymouth-Canton H.S. and went on to receive my bachelor's degree from Madonna University graduating with Highest Honors. By day, I work at a law firm fulltime as a litigation paralegal and at night I attend class at Central Baptist Theological Seminary as of 2019. I will graduate in the fall of 2023 with my MDIV. My son and I have been members of First Presbyterian Church of Warren since 2015 (Rev. Julie Delezenne), where I have served as an elder and led the mission committee. Currently, I am fulfilling my CPM field education requirements at Fort Street Presbyterian Church under the direction and care of Rev. Sarah Logemann and Rev. Garrett Mostowski. While at Fort Street I have had the opportunity to serve and establish relationships with those who have food insecurities or other challenges. Many have been joining us for bible study and continue to teach me what it means to care for another or stand up and help when no one else seems to be paying attention. They men and women my greatest teachers of what it means to do God's work.

Sense of Call: My Christian faith is not to be lived in isolation but to be a light to the world, so that others may see and give glory to God the Father in Heaven. I feel called to be used by God as a light to those who have been kept in darkness and bring joy to those who feel trapped in hopelessness. I am a person who participates and celebrates in the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous. My past, and the experiences I have thus far in life, is where I feel God will use me to carry the message of hope to the man and women who still suffer the bondage of self.

Christ is the church's hope (F-1.0204) and I feel called to share this joyous reality of the grace of God with others. I am blessed to be gifted with a sense of humor and also with a heart of compassion. Together, these gifts will both be used to bring glory and honor to God's name. I want folks to enjoy and look forward to coming to church whether if that is to sing, give praise, or to feel closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Father Richard Rohr has said that it is easy to surrender when you know that absolutely nothing but Love and Mercy is on the other side. That is how I want the church to be seen in the community where I reside showing and demonstrating that God loves us in spite of ourselves. I believe and want to be a witness to a church where all should find love and mercy and for that I am responsible as a proud Presbyterian member.

Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Three distinct persons in one essence. I believe that in spite of our sinful nature God was merciful sending God's only son to die on the cross to save us from our sins. With arms wide open Jesus Christ took my sins and yours to the cross declaring 'it is finished'. Jesus transferred my transgressions onto himself making that which is his by nature to become mine through grace. God gave his Son to reconcile my life. I humbly accept this gift and am grateful for God's love and all that has been done through the Son. I am never farther than God's grace can reach.

Jesus Christ, both Son of God and Son of Man, is head of the church and is present in both Spirit and revealed through the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures are divinely inspired and contain the story of God's faithfulness to a fallen humanity culminating in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Christ called the church into being and sent the church out into the world to bear witness to God's grace available to all. I believe the church is to be an event to be shared not an establishment to warehouse ideas; God is love therefore God is relational. Our Christian faith is not to be lived in isolation but to be a light to the world, so that others may see and give glory to God the Father in Heaven.

The Holy Spirit is a guide in my life and a voice to all believers. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as God wants us to live. By faith, we receive the Holy Spirit's presence within us, encouraging believers in their spiritual growth. The Holy Spirit instructs, guides, leads, and creates in us love, joy, peace, and serenity.

Baptism and the Lords Supper are the two holy sacraments that should be celebrated with the community of faith. I believe baptism is the sign and seal of our incorporation into Jesus Christ, a sign of God's covenant. I believe the Lords Supper is another sign of God's love and grace, a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith.

I believe God is Sovereign over all things, creator and ruler. I believe that God does what God is-LOVE. And because God loves us deeply, I believe that God not only weeps with us but also is a God of compassion and will be there to dry our tears. God is always present even when we don't feel it. I believe I have been saved by this loving and all powerful God and all I have to do is accept this truth and fall into the loving arms of my Savior. I have been saved by grace and grace alone. *For by grace (unmerited, undeserved favor) we are saved through faith; and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any person should boast* (Ephesians 2:8-9).