

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY  
THE REVEREND ROBERT J. TUTTLE, CHAIR  
JULY 26, 2016**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends the following to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- I. THAT** Ann E. Franklin, a member of Morganton First Presbyterian Church, and a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.

Recently, your Committee on Preparation for Ministry conducted interviews with an Inquirer who asked, with the support of their sponsoring congregation and Session, that they be enrolled as a candidate in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. We recommend her to you today for your approval.

**Ann E. Franklin** comes with the support of her congregation and the recommendation of the Session of Morganton First Presbyterian Church. Her written call to ministry/faith statement is contained in this packet (see CPM Attachment 1).

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- Rebecca Heilman was enrolled as an Inquirer on February 17, 2016. Rebecca is a member of the Waldensian Presbyterian Church and is attending Union Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.
- David W. Cathcart, an Inquirer from the Sylva First Presbyterian Church, withdrew from the preparation for ministry process on April 19, 2016
- Mark F. Merritt, an Inquirer from the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, withdrew from the preparation for ministry process on March 5, 2016.
- Benjamin Garris, a member of the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Associate Pastor of the Patuxent Presbyterian Church in California, MD.
- Patrick McElwaine, a candidate from the Asheville First Presbyterian Church, was certified ready to receive a call on April 20, 2016.
- Jason Myers, a member of Fairview Presbyterian Church and a candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Pastor of the Purity Presbyterian Church in Chester, SC, and was ordained at Fairview Presbyterian, his home church, on June 26, 2016.

**Of our Inquirers/Candidates:**

- As of July, there are a total of 6 inquirers and 12 candidates.
- 3 are from small (under 150) churches: Kings Mountain, Montreat and New Hope, Asheville.
- 1 is from a medium (under 300) church: Northminster.
- 14 are from large (over 300) churches: Asheville First, Black Mountain, Gastonia First, Grace Covenant, Lenoir First, Morganton First, Trinity and Waldensian.
- Of the 12 candidates, 4 are authorized to circulate their Personal Information Form.

- The following seminaries have recently graduated students or have students currently attending: Columbia Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond and Charlotte).

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is hoping that you will help to identify and encourage people whom you feel that God is calling into the ministry to be a Teaching Elder (See CPM Attachment 2). Care for people who are feeling a call to the ministry of Teaching Elder is a shared responsibility of the Session and the Presbytery. The process is described below.

### **The Process of Becoming a Candidate and Beginning to Receive a Call**

“It is important that those who are to be ordained as teaching elders receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into a covenant relationship with those preparing to become teaching elders and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy.” (*Book of Order G-2.0601*)

#### **Inquiry Phase:**

In order to begin the inquiry phase, an applicant must be a member of the sponsoring congregation, shall have been active in the work and worship of that congregation for at least six months, and shall have received the endorsement of their session. This person is then examined by CPM, and if approved, is enrolled as an Inquirer.

“The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as teaching elders to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer’s suitability for ordered ministry.” (*G-2.0603*) A person must be an Inquirer for at least one year.

#### **Candidacy Stage:**

When an Inquirer believes, through their discernment, that they are called to the position of teaching elder, they can request that they become a Candidate. The Inquirer will meet with their Session and explain their sense of call. The Session can endorse them and recommend them to the CPM. The CPM, through its discernment, can decide to recommend them to the Presbytery. At the recommendation of the CPM, the Inquirer comes before the Presbytery to share part of their faith journey and their sense of call. The Presbytery can then ask them questions in respect to their sense of call, not questions of content of an ordination exam. They can ask about "their Christian faith, forms of Christian service, and motives for seeking the ministry." (Adopted from a previous *Book of Order*.)

"The purpose of the candidacy phase, then, is to provide for the full preparation of persons to serve the church as teaching elders." (*G-2.0604*)

#### **Preparation for a Call:**

Before a person may take a call in our Presbytery, they must have completed the following:

- Pass the Bible Content Exam.
- Pass the four Senior Ordination Exams (Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity).
- Complete a two-day battery of assessments administered by a Career & Personal Counseling Center.
- Complete one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education training (CPE).
- Normally, complete at least one year at a PCUSA seminary.

- Meet annually with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- Have been an Inquirer at least one year and have been a Candidate at least one year.
- Take a course in Reformed Theology and Polity.

**Must be Approved by CPM to Receive a Call:**

A Candidate may not begin to enter negotiations about a call as a teaching elder without the approval of the CPM, which has been delegated this task. When a Candidate has completed the above, the CPM will examine the Candidate and determine if he/she is ready to begin looking for a call, and if so, will "certify the person ready to receive a call." The Candidate will also have their Personal Information Form (PIF) reviewed and approved by CPM. When the person receives a call, the Candidate will be examined by the receiving presbytery.

If a Candidate who is under care of this Presbytery receives a call within our bounds, that candidate will preach before the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and their sermon will be included in the Presbytery report.

# CPM ATTACHMENT 1

## ANN E. FRANKLIN

I knew from a young age that I am, have been, and will be forever claimed and loved by God. As a child, all of my faith related memories come from First Presbyterian Church, Morganton. Both of my parent's families have been active members in FPC, Morganton since before I was born. Although my parents have never been a strong presence in my faith life, they certainly have supported my wants and my needs to be a part of church by driving me and coordinating with my grandparents. I remember very clearly standing in the pews next to either of my grandparents making up the words to hymns because I couldn't read words or music yet, and I was probably embarrassing them. I remember feeling loved by something beyond my understanding at church. I recall being excited when I would learn of a baptism happening in worship. Something about baptizing a child into the church, seeing God's grace given to them before they knew what it meant, and then the congregation promising to nurture that child's faith struck me as a beautiful thing.

As I grew older, I was eager to become more involved in the church. When the opportunity arose to assist with Children's church, I jumped at it. During this experience, I was moved by the younger children and how they experienced God. I was also moved by how the adults experienced God alongside with the children in these beautiful moments of intergenerational ministry. It was during middle school that I really began to ask questions about the bible, worship, why things in the church were the way they were, and how being a Christian meant I was supposed to act. Here my questions were greeted with love from Sunday school teachers and confirmation mentors who had known me since my toddler days. They pointed me towards, and walked with me through a study of scripture and prayer where I didn't find all the answers, but I was invited to continue to asking questions in community with Christ.

In high school, I was excited to finally be in the youth program. Youth Group was what I looked forward to most, and I found that my friends in youth group were also my close friends at school as well. I attended Montreat Youth Conferences, a Mission Trip to Jamaica, and served on the presbytery youth council where I felt God's presence as we had hard conversations about why the world is the way that it is and what we could do to change it. Being exposed to children of God in unfathomable poverty and discussing vast injustices in the world at Montreat caused me to wonder how God is present in these situations and how I could care for God's people. We laughed together, served together, and prayed for each other as we felt the Holy Spirit in our actions and in our conversations.

Towards the end of my senior year, college decision time quickly approached and my prayer life surged. My friends had all gotten into their dream schools, and I was left to choose between two that I was not very excited about. I prayed and prayed and talked through many pro/con lists with my parents and church mentors. I ended up spending one year at school at Appalachian, and it turns out that year is when I started to feel the Holy Spirit pushing me to explore ministry. I found a church home with First Presbyterian Church, Boone, and God guided me to become their youth intern. This experience turned out to be my first step into discernment, although I wasn't sure what discernment was back then. I had conversations about my career anxieties and the joy I found working with youth in a faith based way with my previous youth pastor, Rev. Adam Bowling. He asked me if I had thought about ordained ministry. At that point I had not, but I have not stopped thinking about it since then. I began to have these conversations with my supervisors and my pastor in Boone. I gladly accepted more responsibility with youth programming and was exposed to more pastoral care over that year. I began to get a much wider and more fulfilled understanding of what ministry involved and how I might serve God and a church in future.

During the winter of my first year, I began to really feel that Appalachian was just not right for me. I transferred to NC State the following August. Over the next three years, God gave me several opportunities to explore my growing faith, discern, and pray over what would be next after graduation. I was surrounded by God's children at the Presbyterian Campus Ministry of Raleigh. Together we studied, we listened, we learned, and we explored what it meant to be faithful Christians in college as young adults full of hope about to go out into a world where hope seemed small and pain seemed large. We discerned together what our futures might look like and how the church and our faiths would continue to inform our lives.

# CPM ATTACHMENT 1

It was also during my time with Presbyterian Campus Ministry, especially during the final year, that my discernment both peaked and was the most confusing. As I prayed about what would be next, I could not get seminary and ministry out of my head, but I was still unsure of where to go because I had been offered a great job working for an International Education company in Chapel Hill. I had also been in conversation with Rev. John Cook about a campus ministry internship in South Carolina. I expressed to John in our conversations my uncertainty as to where I was being called to go. John then asked me what was most important to me. It took me a second to answer the question, but the answer soon became clear that being in relation with Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins was, and is, the most important thing to me. I prayed, I waited, and finally I heard. Then, on the last day of class, I felt the Holy Spirit's presence as I was flooded with emotion when I finally was able to feel and live into God pushing me to ministry in Columbia.

As I crossed the state lines into South Carolina, I embarked on a year of intentional discernment ready to listen and do what God was pulling me towards. Throughout my time in Columbia, I got a taste of what full time ministry looks like. I visited with students, developed bible studies, led programs, led worship, participated in the church engaged in social justice, and learned all the things behind the scenes that make a campus ministry happen under the supervision of Rev. John Cook. I learned what pastors do the other four days of the work week. During this time, my toes dabbled into pastoral care and worship planning. I was struck by the beauty of conversations with others about life and how they experience God in the world. I felt hope for the world and the future as I heard students share their experiences of God's grace along with reflecting on my own experiences of God's grace. I left that internship for Union Presbyterian Seminary full of excitement to explore more ways and practices to be in ministry with one another as we encounter God in an ever changing world.

Now, I have been in seminary for almost two years and serving as a youth intern at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, I am constantly seeing the beauty of God's grace in the world. As my classmates and I journey through seminary together in community, we constantly ask one another how ministry and social justice are related and how being a Christian shapes our lives and our morals. Through classes, even though sometimes I leave with more questions than I came in with, my faith in God the Creator and Sustainer continues to grow with each lecture and section. As a youth intern, I am constantly filled with Christ's love and praying for this church as I teach and minister (with supervision) to youth and their families. Seeing them grow in their faiths and being a part of the questions they ask about their own faith surprises me and gives me hope for the church in a changing society.

The road of my faith has taken many twists and turns, but the road has always been beneath my feet and guiding me forward even when I am uncertain of which turns will come next. I am claimed by the waters of baptism, guided by the Holy Spirit, spiritually fed at the table, and forgiven by God's ceaseless grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When asked, "What do you want to do?" my answer is simple: I want to be a minister, share the Good News of the gospel, and remind people of God's presence in an ever-changing world.

Grace and Peace,  
Annie Franklin

# CPM ATTACHMENT 2



**HAVE YOU  
ENCOURAGED  
SOMEONE TO  
CONSIDER  
ORDAINED MINISTRY?**

## **What do you do to help that person?**

1. First, have the person talk with the pastor to explore his/her sense of call.
2. Then pastor should then call the Presbytery office and ask the CPM staff person\* to initiate the necessary paperwork to the pastor, who will then share it with the prospective inquirer.
3. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) will appoint a committee representative to meet with the Session.
4. The Session meets with a CPM representative who will outline and explain the inquiry and candidacy process. This would be a meeting without the prospective inquirer present. He/she could join the meeting later or a second meeting could be held. The person exploring his/her sense of call will need to complete inquiry forms before meeting with the Session.
5. At the Session meeting with the prospective inquirer, the Session will help the person discern his/her call. The Session will either choose to endorse or not to endorse the person. If the person is endorsed, a Session liaison will be appointed.
6. The CPM staff person is contacted and will arrange for the person to meet with the CPM. Also, career counseling must be completed and paid for by the church, unless they cannot afford it. The CPM will chose whether to endorse the person as an inquirer.

“The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as teaching elders (ministers of the Word and Sacrament) to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer’s suitability for ordered ministry.” *Book of Order* G-2.0603

\* The current CPM staff person is Marcia Puckett. Her telephone number is (828)438-4217 or email at [mpuckett@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:mpuckett@presbyterywnc.org).

# CPM ATTACHMENT 2

## WOULD YOU KNOW A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE IF YOU SAW ONE?

**Roy M. Oswald** offers a short list of qualities church leaders will need in the twenty-first century.

**1. Deep faith**

Obvious reverence for God and an ongoing search for the meaning of life through biblical and historic paradigms.

**2. A call**

A sense of the need to serve God, along with an understanding of the difference between service as a baptized Christian and as an ordained minister.

**3. Leadership potential**

Demonstrated leadership ability from other arenas or evidence of that capacity.

**4. Communication skills**

Enjoyment of contacts with a variety of people and the ability to communicate easily and effectively.

**5. Good health**

Physical, emotional and spiritual health, visible in the person's appearance.

—Finding Leaders for Tomorrow's Churches: The Growing Crisis in Clergy Recruitment,  
(Alban Institute, 1993, 87).