

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
THE REVEREND DANA VAUGHN, CHAIR
JULY 29, 2017**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- David Smith, a Candidate from the Montreat Presbyterian Church, was certified ready to receive a call on May 17, 2017.
- Matthew Conner, a member of the Gastonia First Presbyterian Church and a Candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Pastor of the Newell Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.
- Barrett Payne, a member of the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and a Candidate from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has accepted a call as Pastor of the Lillington Presbyterian Church in Lillington, NC.

Of our Inquirers/Candidates:

- As of July, there are a total of 3 inquirers and 12 candidates.
- 2 are from small (under 150) churches: Montreat and New Hope, Asheville.
- 1 is from a medium church: Northminster.
- 12 are from large (over 300) churches: Trinity, Morganton First, Asheville First, Black Mountain, Gastonia First and Waldensian.
- Of the 12 candidates, 4 are authorized to circulate their Personal Information Forms.
- The following seminaries have recently graduated students or have students currently attending: Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond and Charlotte), Columbia Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary, Gardner Webb Divinity School.



**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.

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).