

January 2019 report to Presbytery of Transylvania, from the Leadership Development Ministry

In November 2018, we held a weekend event for our first Commissioned Lay Pastor training. Five trainees attended.

Leaders/teachers were Mary Weese and Stephen Fearing, along with Philip Lotspeich and Melissa Bane Sevier, who coordinated the event at Jenny Wiley State Park. We centered on group formation and preaching, since several in the group are already preaching regularly.

Our next event will be February 22-24 at the Historic Boone Tavern in Berea. The event will begin with dinner Friday, and end after lunch Sunday. Here's what we'll cover: **sacraments, liturgy, form of worship, worship planning and leadership, funerals.** Each student will have posted a video of that student preaching, before the meeting and we'll offer helpful critique. And we'll make time during the weekend to do sexual misconduct prevention training.

It's not too late to start with the program; we can accept new students at any point.

- To be eligible to be commissioned for pastoral service, a person must be a **PCUSA ruling elder in good standing** with gifts and graces for pastoral ministry.
- The process begins when a candidate fills out an **application**. This application must be endorsed by the session where the ruling elder currently is a member, and must include references from others who know the candidate well.
- The application will be screened by the **Commission on Preparation for Ministry** (CPM) of Transylvania Presbytery. References will be checked and a background check will be performed. If the application is in order, the candidate will then be asked to meet with the CPM for an interview.
- Pending a **positive outcome of the interview**, the candidate will then be enrolled and brought under care of the Commission on

Preparation for Ministry. This care will include ongoing encouragement and contact, including psychological testing which will take place during the first year of the program.

- Once training and testing is completed and the CPM approves a candidate for commissioning, the **Pastoral Transitions Commission** (PTC) will work with candidates and sessions in determining when a church can be served by a CLP and which pastoral tasks are included in each commission.

Candidates will be trained in areas necessary for pastoral leadership, including introductions to both biblical testaments, preaching, Reformed worship and sacraments, pastoral care, Presbyterian polity, Reformed theology, Christian education, and sexual misconduct prevention. This training will take place over two to three years, at events conducted within the presbytery.

What's the cost? We have asked the sessions of the congregations that supports the candidates to invest in the training with \$50-100 per each event. (Lack of funds will NOT keep us from accepting a candidate.) The presbytery will absorb the remainder of the cost.

Do you know someone who would be interested in the training?

Contact Melissa Bane Sevier at melissa@mbswriting.com or 859-321-3568.