

## Commission on Preparation for Ministry

### Informational only

#### CPM met on March 12, 2019 with discussion and approval of the following:

- Reviewed and approved March minutes.
- Confirmed dates for our annual retreat at Cliffview Retreat and Conference Center for August the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Thank you notes for the CPM grant were received and read by Chair, Connie.
- Met with Heather McIntyre (Candidate who is finishing her final year at Louisville Seminary), to perform her final assessment. CPM approved Heather ready to receive a call and permission to post her PIF.
- Reports given on Inquirers/Candidates and CLPS.

Our next meeting will be April the 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church Winchester.

Connie Turner

CPM Chair

## Commission on Preparation for Ministry

### No Action Required

#### CPM met on April 9, 2019 with discussion and approval of the following:

- Reviewed and approved March minutes.
- Read Julia McCorvey's letter of withdrawal from the ordination process. Voted to accept her withdrawal.
- Reports given on Inquirers/Candidates and CLPS.
- Met with Timothy Scot Robinson via Zoom, to move him to Candidacy. CPM approved him for Candidacy pending interview with the Presbytery.
- Approved that Paul Miller, CLP candidate also receive the \$500.00 grant provided to the other Candidates/Inquirers and CLP candidates.
- Set an interview date for Keith Adams, CLP candidate, for May 13, 2019.

Our next meeting will be May the 14th at 12:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church Winchester.

Connie Turner

CPM Chair

**Bio: Scot Robinson**

**4/4/2019**

I was born in Pikeville, KY to a small family as the youngest of three siblings (two older sisters). I was blessed to grow up in the beautiful mountains of Pikeville where I have made so many amazing friendships and experienced so many formative moments that have led me to the path I'm currently on. I grew up in a Southern Baptist church where my Nanny, who I refer to as a self-made Appalachian theologian, taught Sunday school every Sunday. It was in this church where I gained my spiritual formations and first encountered the person of Jesus. However, I didn't fully embrace my faith and my identity in Christ until I found the Presbyterian church where I became an official member while I was attending college years later. I attended the University of Pikeville, an historic Presbyterian college, where I majored in Religious Studies. This was a result of me loving the study of ethics, philosophy, theology, and anthropology and I found the religious studies program combined all of these while also giving me an opportunity to learn about other religions in order to better understand my neighbor while also studying my own religious tradition in an academic setting. While my initial aspirations were to continue on a more strictly academic path, my new-found church home and opportunity through my studies to assess my own theology helped awaken a desire to become an inquirer and pursue an MDiv. I followed this nudge from the Spirit and was accepted to Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2016 and am now graduating in May of 2019, continuing my journey towards ordination. During my studies for my MDiv I have found that my academic and research interests include theology-based bioethics, the intersections of health care and theology, pastoral care in rural contexts, and practical programs for health ministries that respond to poverty in regions like Appalachia. I, of course, could not achieve any of this without strong familial support and unwavering support from my caring and gracious wife, Kelli, who I met during my time at the University of Pikeville and married in 2017. In my spare time I am an avid audiophile and rock and roll fan. I collect vinyl records, enjoy concert going, and consider myself a lay expert on Beatles history. I also play guitar as a hobby and write original songs that are sang by my wife Kelli. While I look forward to moving back closer to home, I will miss cheering on the Tennessee Titans at Nissan Stadium after church lets out on Sunday.

## Statement of Faith

Scot Robinson 4/4/2019

Central to the Christian faith is the belief in a living God whose mystery is preserved in the doctrine of the Triune God. This states that God, who is personal, works in three different ways simultaneously both in unity and distinction. This is achieved through the Creator/Father, the Son, and the Spirit who all make up the totality of work of the *one* God.

Humanity is in a state of brokenness and sin. We often hurt our neighbors, build up divisive walls, and are concerned only with our own gain at the expense of others. This *sin* can manifest individually or through the harmful systems in which we live under designed by imperfect humans. Salvation and redemption for humanity was/is needed. The cross is symbolic of the subjecting of the incarnate Christ to the consequences of sin. The suffering of Christ *was* the suffering of God. On the cross, God takes on the sufferings of the world in order to redeem them. God suffers to overcome suffering. Christ is not our substitute but acts as God's first move in reconciling us to God. Through Christ's resurrection we see the victory over these destructive forces. As a result of this victory, and through our faith by grace, we have the opportunity to become new creations. Realizing we are forgiven frees us for a new beginning with ourselves, others, and with God. We then heed the Spirit's direction in our journey of sanctification.

The foremost source of revelation (how we know what we know about God) in the Christian tradition is the Bible. Here we encounter God's work through history, in the lives of the inspired writers working through their own faith, and in the picture we get of God's relationship with humanity. It is a mark of the true church that the "word be rightly preached". Doing this "*rightly*" involves prayerful discernment of the text, seeking the Spirit's wisdom and illumination, and faithful exegesis that acknowledges the text's reflection of history, time, and place. The Bible's authority is in its capacity to be a vehicle for God's fresh address to the church today. We acknowledge historical context but also bring new questions to texts and see them in light of new experiences guided by the Spirit who we encounter in the lines of the text. While scripture is the foremost source of revelation we can also know about God through *reason, experience, and tradition*.

The church is universal, however, this unity does not mean uniformity. There is one God and one Spirit but a variety of vibrant communities with different gifts. Though our individual churches are earthly centers of worship and praise as Jonathan Edwards notes, God's kingdom is one that has plenty of rooms for large numbers of people. In other words, it's bigger than just any one church or denomination. As the church we all take part in the mission that aims to make visible or active in history God's grace in the world, or, as one of the great ends of the church states, "to exhibit the kingdom of heaven to the world". The same Spirit that descended on Christ in the gospels and gave the Church its fulfillment at Pentecost is the same entity that moves through the Sacraments of the universal Church today. It beckons the church to make active in their communities fellowship, love, and the peace of Christ.

As the church, we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as signs of the real presence and power of Christ and as symbols of God's activity. Through their observance God seals us in redemption as people of God marked for service. Though earthly unassuming mediums are used, we are yet spiritually nourished, renewed, and encountered by the true presence of Christ who is in and around our observance of the sacraments.