

Commission on Preparation for Ministry March 2018 Report to Presbytery (Revised 2/28/18)

### **Action Items**

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) finds Heather McIntyre, who has successfully completed the stage of Inquiry, to be a suitable candidate for Ministry. Therefore, the Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends to the Presbytery that Heather McIntyre be moved to Candidacy.

Additionally, the CPM recommends that Heather McIntyre be elected as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly.

### **Information Only Items**

At the December 2017 meeting of the CPM:

Julia McCorvey (FPC Lexington) was enrolled as an Inquirer. Julia is currently attending Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Grants were awarded to Inquirers John Kupar, Heather McIntyre, Ryan Straw, and CRE/CLP) Sarah Wilson.

Heather McIntyre was approved as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary to the General Assembly.

Established Monday — Tuesday, August 6-7, 2018 as the dates for the Annual Retreat and Consultation with Inquirers, Candidates, and CLP/CRE's.

At the January 2018 meeting of the CPM:

New members of the Commission were welcomed: Betsy Steiner (Honorably Retired) and David Whiteman (Ruling Elder FPC Winchester). New member Diehl Ackerman had an excused absence (Ruling Elder Morehead).

Reviewed the Psychological Evaluation of Ryan Straw.

At the February 2018 meeting of the CPM:

Heather McIntyre (Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church) was moved to Candidacy with unanimous approval.

We celebrated with John Kupar (Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church) upon completion of all requirements of the preparation process. He was unanimously approved "ready to seek a call." He will prepare a PIF which will be reviewed by the CPM before posting it on the Church Leadership Connection (PCUSA).

Preliminary Statement of Faith  
(Heather McIntyre)

“In life and in death, we belong to God.”<sup>1</sup> I believe that the Triune God who is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer calls each of us to seek justice and reconciliation in a sin-filled world. When we seek to know and obey God’s Word, follow Christ’s example, and listen to the Holy Spirit, we help proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

God’s love is unfathomable. In the beginning, the Father created all things, pronounced them good, and tasked us with caring for Creation.<sup>2</sup> As a result of our sinful nature, we continually fail to live up to this duty. Denying our interconnectedness and turning away from God’s precepts, we injure our planet, harm one another, and worship the false gods of material gain and power. These decisions fill the Holy One with sorrow and anger. Nevertheless, God continues to call us to repent of our sinful self-interest and seeks to gather us in as a mother hen gathers her children under her wings.<sup>3</sup> God’s protection of the people of Israel and messages through the prophets demonstrate the Holy One’s special care for those who are downtrodden. As the psalmist says, God “executes justice for the oppressed...The LORD sets the prisoners free, the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow.”<sup>4</sup> As children of the Living God, we are called show our thanks for the free gift of God’s grace by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.<sup>5</sup> I believe that when we answer this call, we reflect God’s love and help bring about reconciliation for all Creation.

I believe that God’s love and mercy are perfectly revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of God’s son Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.<sup>6</sup> Proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand,<sup>7</sup> Christ demonstrates through both words and deeds that God cares for the marginalized, lifts up the downtrodden, and upsets the principalities of this world. Christ invites each of us to witness to the coming Kingdom by becoming disciples and following him. In his willingness to follow God’s call to the point of condemnation and death, Christ shows the depths of God’s love and challenges us to seek justice, mercy, and reconciliation even at the expense of our own safety and security—to take the cross and follow him.<sup>8</sup> Christ’s resurrection attests that nothing—not the powers and principalities of this world, not sin, not even death—can separate us from God’s love or prevent the coming of God’s Kingdom.

Like those who have gone before us, we are called to help usher in God’s perfect kingdom—an existence in which we are reconciled with God and one another. As the giver and renewer of our faith, The Holy Spirit, (God’s gift through grace) enables us as both individuals and the Church to listen to God’s call. The Holy Spirit helps us turn our hearts back to God and show our thanks by worshipping God, loving one another, and seeking to end all injustice.<sup>9</sup> It “gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.”<sup>10</sup> Although I—like all the faithful—live into God’s call imperfectly and sometimes stumble along the road to salvation, I rest assured that God’s grace is sufficient and that God’s purpose for myself and for all Creation will prevail.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 11.1

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 1

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 23:47

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 146: 7-9

<sup>5</sup> Micah 6:8

<sup>6</sup> John 14:6

<sup>7</sup> Mark 1:14

<sup>8</sup> Luke 9:23

<sup>9</sup> *The Confession of 1967*, 9.20

<sup>10</sup> *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 11.4

<sup>11</sup> *The Confession of 1967*, 9.23-9.25