

## Commission on Preparation for Ministry

December 2025

- At our September meeting, the commission met with Sean Gladding. Members of CPM were provided Sean's resume and transcript to review prior. Sean recently became a member of Danville Presbyterian and is seeking to become an inquirer for ordination. The CPM discussed with Sean his sense of call, ministry at Danville, and theology. Michael Bean and Griffin Ryan volunteered to be Sean's co-shepherds as he begins his journey of ordination.
- In September the CPM also planned for a time of fellowship after the December presbytery meeting during lunch. All shepherds and candidates were invited.
- At the CPM meeting on October 7th, updates on inquirers/candidates and CP candidates were presented by their shepherds. Annual consultations were discussed. Since we were not able to meet in-person for the annual summer retreat, the two annual consultations needed by the commission will be conducted between in meetings between shepherds and their candidates. These will be reviewed and turned into the CPM.
- Elder Greg Cooper's Commissioning Service will take place during worship on December 7th at Cynthiana Presbyterian Church. Greg met with the CPM on August 5th for his final assessment. The CPM unanimously approved his readiness to be commissioned and are excited by his energy for his calling as a Commissioned Pastor.
- The CPM met on November 4th and discussed goals for 2026. While we achieved and made great progress on a few of our goals from 2025 we had a few others we still feel are yet to be met. For 2026 the following goals were set and agreed upon by the commission:
  - Organize and construct an accessible folder via Google Drive that contains helpful documents for candidates and CPM shepherds. This may include documents of helpful resources, grant application forms, road maps/timelines for ordination/commissioning, and other materials helpful for the journey. The goal is to pool this knowledge and info together in an accessible and easy to navigate way.
  - As shepherds, ensure that the goals of the candidate(s) you are supporting are met and reviewed by the end of the year.
  - Share about the Commissioned Pastor program via an event or presentation offered to the presbytery.
- In 2025 the CPM approved three support grants to our candidates for help with professional growth opportunities, materials needed for education/ministry, spiritual direction, etc. We are happy to have assisted in the amount of \$1,548.45. This was one of our goals for 2025.

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- The CPM met in November to discuss the request received from Danville regarding Sean Gladding. Danville accepted Sean as a member and asked that he be enrolled as inquirer. However, the Book of Order requires six months of church membership before becoming an inquirer (G-2.0602). Sean's years of experience in ministry, years of service in Danville, sense of call, and completed seminary education were discussed as rationale for recommending the request. This was also supplemented by updates from Sean's shepherds about his energy and excitement around his current ministry at Danville. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the CPM recommends that the presbytery waive the six month requirement for membership in a local congregation and Sean Gladding be enrolled as an inquirer.

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### **Recommendation from CPM for Presbytery:**

The CPM recommends that the presbytery waive the six month requirement for membership in a local congregation (G-2.0602) and that Sean Gladding be enrolled as an inquirer. This accommodation requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the entire presbytery.

### **Rationale:**

The CPM has met with Sean Gladding and discussed his sense of call to ministry, education, and service at Danville. His case is not the typical case we often encounter when enrolling inquirers for ministry. Sean has extensive work with two congregation in the presbytery, including five years on staff at Danville overseeing the Spiritual Formation of the Congregation. He has also filled a pastoral role at Danville following the departure of their installed pastor. Sean has already completed his MDiv and served in previous pastoral roles as well without any ordination status. The time requirement for the enrollment of inquiry intended to engage on in the active work and worship of that congregation for discernment and foundational experience. In the CPM's judgement Sean has already met that benchmark of experience and discernment in his time at Danville and via his existing education.

If waived, Sean would be enrolled as an inquirer and will still need to prepare for candidacy via submitting his statement of faith and biographical statement to the CPM. As a commission we cherish and seriously take this step and will work with Sean in preparation for this step through support via his shepherds to the commission and discussing these two statements before the move to candidacy. Additionally, Sean will prepare for ordination exams and complete his psychological evaluation as well. If Sean completes all necessary steps, a further waiver may be requested to shorten the time requirement for candidacy (one year) and the entire process (two years).

The CPM is working closely with Sean in his discernment, preparation, and readiness for ministry. While this process wouldn't be the usual path, the CPM acknowledges the particularity of this case along with Sean's existing experience.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Scot Robinson, CPM moderator*