COMMISSION ON MINISTRY AND MINISTRY PREPARATION
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024

The meeting of the Commission on Ministry and Ministry Preparation was held via Zoom and called to order by Linda Kennan at 10:00 a.m., January 24, 2024, following devotions and prayer by Christina Jensen.

Members present: Robbie Carnes, Lynn Franko, Janette Gonzales, Al Hosler, Christina Jensen, Linda Kennan, Rob Minard, Brant Piper, Dawn Russell, Ed Savage, Kim Strunz, Cassie Todd and Jane Young.

Members excused: Jon Baker.

Guest: Linda Gibbs

Presbytery staff present: Ted McCulloch, Stated Clerk and Staci Percy, Communications Manager/Recording Clerk.

Welcoming of new members: Dawn Russell and Linda Gibbs. (Linda Gibbs will be elected at a special meeting of presbytery later in January.)

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the agenda.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 stated meeting.

The **STATED CLERK** report was given by Ted McCulloch.

It was reported that there will be a special meeting of presbytery on January 29, 2024 for the purpose of electing: the Vice Moderator of Presbytery, the Elder Commissioner to General Assembly and Elder Linda Gibbs to COMMP, Class of 2026.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to elect Linda Kennan as Moderator of COMMP and Dawn Russell as Vice Moderator of COMMP for 2024 effective immediately.

Linda Kennen led training on what COMMP is responsible for and what members are asked to do. She also discussed the demographics of the presbytery, how they are changing and how that affects the work of COMMP.

Subteam assignments were discussed. Team assignments will remain the same unless someone requests to be changed. Dawn Russell will join and moderate the Admin Team. Linda Gibbs was encouraged to join the Admin Team.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to appoint the following people to Moderate the indicated congregational meetings and sessions:

- Scott Kroener, Fairgrove session meeting on January 11, 2024.
- Al Hosler, Fairgrove session meetings for remainder of 2024 and the congregational meeting to be held February 18, 2024.

Discussion was held regarding the future of Twining-Maple Ridge.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to appoint Brant Piper as Moderator of Beaverton-First's congregational meeting on February 11, 2024.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to appoint Alissa Davis as Moderator of the Houghton Lake-Kirk of the Lakes congregational meeting, January 28, 2024.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to appoint Scott Kroener as Moderator of the Vassar-First session meeting on January 25, 2024 and the congregational meeting on February 4, 2024.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve placing Ron Vredeveld on the Pulpit Supply List pending a background check and informational interview by the Interview Team.

The **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION** report was given by Robbie Carnes. The team has determined that Nikelle Johnson is ready to be moved to Candidate status and asked that she be placed on the docket for the March presbytery meeting.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to present inquirer Nikelle Johnson as ready to be moved to candidate status at the March presbytery meeting.

Discussion was led by Ted McCulloch on what positions the presbytery should ordain to.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve part-time called and installed and designated pastor positions as ordination eligible ministerial roles.

The **TRANSITION/INTERVIEW TEAM** report was given by Linda Kennan.

Discussion was held regarding Dennis Irish, the Methodist pastor serving Vassar-First.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to allow Dennis Irish to serve at Vassar-First and be a temporary member of presbytery and to appoint Christina Jensen as his mentor as well as to be the mentor to Bill Wright (Croswell-First).

An update was given on:

- Beaverton-First
- Holly
- Fenton-Tyrone
- Saginaw-Countryside Trinity

The **ADMINSTRATIVE TEAM** report was given by Ted McCulloch.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the part-time (approximately 48 days/year) CRE Covenant renewal between Elder Jon Baker and Rosebush for a period of one year effective November 1, 2023. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	$200/week
Vacation Time	4-8 Sundays
Study Leave	N/A

The Rev. Andrew Miller will continue to serve as his mentor.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the part-time CRE contract renewal between Elder Liz Long and Ithaca-Lafayette effective January 1, 2024 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Salary	$160/week
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate
Vacation Allowance	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the part-time CRE contract between Elder Mark Garavaglia and Sandusky and Yale-First congregations effective January 1, 2024 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Salary	$650/week (split 50/50 by each church)
Medical	$650/month & up to 12 weeks family leave
Continuing Education	$1000/year
Travel Reimbursement	At current IRS Rate
Vacation Allowance	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays

The Rev. Robbie Carnes continues to serve as his mentor.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve the full time Temporary Relationship covenant between Davison-St. Andrew's and Rev. Linda Graham effective January 1, 2024 for a period of one year. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	$25,000
Housing Allowance	$22,000
IRA Allowance	$4000
Medical (estimate)	$4000
Study Leave	$650 allowance; 2 weeks including 2 Sundays

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to approve a continuing education grant in the amount of $4400 for the Rev. Dawn Russell.

GENERAL/NEW BUSINESS included:

- Devotional leaders for upcoming meetings were discussed.
    - February – Dawn Russell
    - March – Brant Piper
    - April – Linda Kennan
    - May – Robbie Carnes
    - June – Al Hosler

Discussion was held regarding the date of the March meeting. It was decided that since the normal meeting date would fall during Holy Week, the meeting would be moved up a week to March 20, 2024. Luke Choi, our Board of Pensions Representative, is tentatively scheduled to join us for that meeting.

MOTION WAS SUSTAINED to adjourn at 12:10pm following closing prayer by Christina Jensen. The next scheduled meeting of the Commission on Ministry and Ministry Preparation will be held Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:00am via Zoom. Dawn Russell will lead devotions.

Staci Percy
Communications Manager/Recording Clerk