

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report to Pittsburgh Presbytery
May 2022**

Regular Meeting of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 4:00 pm. With a quorum being present, Chair Elder Peggy Bonfiglio opened the meeting with prayer.

Items for Information

1. Enrolled as Inquirers

The commission reports the following Applicant was examined and approved to be enrolled as Inquirer:

HENKEL Heather Henkel, a member of Parkwood United Presbyterian Church since 2015, graduated from Miami University in 1995, and graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2020.

2. Received as Candidates

The commission reports the following Inquirers were examined and approved to be received as Candidates:

ABBOTT Rebecca Abbott has been a member of Unity Presbyterian Church since 2001, graduated from Point Park University in 2008, and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Rebecca enrolled as an Inquirer in November 2019.

CASEY Karl Casey has been a member of Bower Hill Community Church since 2011, is participating in the Inter Presbytery Leader Formation Program, and is preparing to serve as a Commissioned Pastor. Karl enrolled as an Inquirer in November 2018.

SINGLETON Steven Singleton has been a member of Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church since 1997, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Masters in Teaching in 1998, and graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2021. Steven enrolled as an Inquirer in September 2019.

WELLSTEAD Victoria Wellstead has been a member of Shadyside Presbyterian Church since 2016, graduated from Tulane Law School in 1991, and is expected to graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2022. Victoria enrolled as an Inquirer in September 2020.

3. Ordination Examinations

The commission reports the following persons have been given permission to take the Senior Ordination Examinations specified:

Sharron Boddy-Adedipe (Theology, Worship and Sacraments)

Suzanne Good (Worship and Sacraments)

4. Sermons Heard

The commission reports a sermon was heard from the following Candidate:

Amy Newell – 3/27/2022

5. Certified Ready to Receive a Call & Circulate PIF

The commission reports the following Candidate was examined and approved to be Certified Ready to receive a call and approved to circulate her Personal Information Form:

Jason Dauer

Amy Newell

Items for Action

1. Consent Motion

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the following item be approved by consent: **# 2.**

***2. Approval of Accommodation for Particular Circumstances-** for Candidate 611519 (see enclosed proposal)

Update and Accommodations for Candidate 611519
Commission on Preparation for Ministry of Pittsburgh Presbytery
May 2022

Background:

1. At the September 2021 Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery approved a set of accommodations for candidate 611519. This individual has diagnoses of ADHD, difficulty with math, and slow processing speed.
2. Four accommodations were approved at that time
 - a. Extended time for the Bible Content Exam
 - b. An adapted ordination exam for polity, allowing 18 hours for completion rather than 9 hours.
 - c. An adapted ordination exam for theology, allowing 18 hours for completion rather than 9 hours.
 - d. To accept a letter from an approved tutor that the candidate has achieved the proficiency necessary for ordination to satisfy the language requirement for Hebrew. (The individual completed their Greek requirement in seminary).
3. The Commission is pleased to report that accommodations B, C, and D have yielded a successful result for the individual.
4. Despite the extended time, the individual was unsuccessful in passing the Bible Content Exam.

Additional Accommodation Request for the Bible Content Exam

In consultation with their care team, Candidate 611519 has requested an alternative means of assessment for the Bible Content Exam. At the most recent Commission on Preparation for Ministry meeting, the commission approved the following as an alternate means of assessment for Bible Content and requests the Presbytery's approval.

- The exam will be administered verbally and consist of twenty questions covering the Old and New Testaments.
- Three members of CPM will serve as the evaluators, and one person will serve as the convener. The individual will be free to ask clarifying questions to the convener only.
- The range of time for responses will be 3-5 minutes.
- The questions will ask the individual to identify significant themes, stories, and theological concepts from all sections of scripture.
- Primary sources for developing these questions will come from the following resources:
 - The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (Yale University Press, 1992)
 - The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (Intervarsity Press, 2000)
 - Pre-2012 Bible Content Exams Available at www.whitneyhq.com

- Evaluators will score the response to each question on a 1-5 scale. The total score from each evaluator will then be averaged to determine a final overall score. The passing mark will be 70 (out of a possible 100 points)
- The individual will be able to ask for a break when needed.

In reviewing the official documentation supplied by Candidate 611519's psychologist, we believe this format, particularly the freedom to take breaks, will give the individual the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in a way conducive to their abilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Brian Wallace

CPM Staff Liaison