

Living Water Association, UCC
Committee on Ministry
Credentialing Working Group Notes
10 September 2020

Present: Pam Beck, Jill Harkins Goodman, Sprite Johnson, Nayiri Karjian, Patti Komperda, Deb Oden

Opening Prayer: Sprite

Nancy Snyder – 1st. Congregational UCC, Conneaut – **relicensed for three years**

Prayer – Deb

*MiD/seminary grad, Kay Krejci is her mentor; assistant to the pastor for visitation, supply, etc. (along with another licensed pastor); a small group (about 10) that wants the pastor (Frank Walford) out, led by a particular couple, with about 35 who attend who are not part of this group (may be a power issue) – a surprise to the leadership team; Pastoral Support Committee – mostly a repository for complaints from the [former] secretary – in process of being revised; **Nayiri will talk to the pastor & moderator and bring Oversight in for assistance/guidance**; works with a group on pastoral care; created a group of women who are supporting each other in building peace to deal with conflict; looking for other ministry options, should things fall apart; still feels like she is in the right place, doing visitation, but her other job (quality manager, research, etc. for Molded Fiberglass) has expanded due to the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19; we suggest that she do visitation by phone (perhaps while standing outside) rather than in person inside a home; slowly working through the MiD process & documents – thinking about chaplaincy; a challenging time; gathered worship – masks recommended/not required, self-contained cups for communion, offering in plates outside, sit with same group, no conversations inside, no singing – at least one person who really wants to sing [suggestion to consult with insurance carrier about requirements to avoid being sued]*

Pam Hahn – Litchfield UCC – **relicensed for [a second] one year term**

Prayer – Pam

Read the books we suggested, taken some courses through NEOSOM; in-person worship, pod casts, and will be starting live-streaming soon; licensed ministry – life-changing; the company she worked for moved to Dallas, so had more time to focus on the church – sometimes overwhelmed; supportive congregation; nothing has been changed in the church since she started there, so she has been updating/refreshing things – classrooms ready for whenever people return, made front entranceway & Fellowship Hall more inviting – visual symbolism that the church is not stuck in the past and moving forward;

2 new members (with baby); loved the NEOSOM courses & instructors, currently taking Homiletics, Intro to Biblical Studies, & Personal Ethics – New Testament courses helped to look at the Bible differently and create several Bible study classes; also participated in Healthy Practices & a Community of Practice (now by Zoom) – very helpful in walking through difficult issues; worship – masks required, single entry door, multiple exits available, pews taped off, no singing, but instrumental music, offering plate at entry, bulletins picked up by individual, plexiglass around podium, communion – 1st month people brought their own, now use pre-filled (picked up with bulletins)

David Brown – Trinity UCC, Akron – **relicensed for three years**

Prayer – Patti

MiD – ordination track – new set of courses, yet to be offered; small staff – office person, director of music, pastor; recording (Thursday evenings) and posting services to be posted You Tube on Sundays with 30-40 people watching; host 2 other congregations: Nepali & Congolese, who both meet in afternoons; have shared services (& food) with the Nepali congregation – one of the pastors is a good interpreter; they are building relationships; led ecumenical book discussion (Evicted by Matthew Desmond) with Michael Howard that included learning about the housing situation in Akron; this is his church by birth – Positive: knows people, Negative: people also get irritated because he hasn't started in-person worship – experience of presiding at a funeral of someone you have known for over 50 years; been using Marcia McFee's worship for the past year – a woman who loves to decorate, so follows the themes; would have liked to make more progress with the ONA process – not resistance as much as there is much to do – need time to put in place; last year – big event was merger between East Market St. & Trinity – have lost very few people and the Church Council has been integrated with both congregations; nominated to the Conference Board of Directors

Conversation about whether or not we have had issues with licensed lay pastors (lifted up from within the congregation) and their churches. Not that we can think of – possibly because of the pre-existing relationships. Interesting since we suggest that other staff people (secretaries, custodians, etc.) *not* be hired from within the congregation.

**italics – conversation prior to interview*

Next Scheduled Meetings
Credentialing: 8 October 2020
Committee on Ministry – 3 December 2020