

Committee on Discernment

September 17, 2020 AKA March 183, 2020

Meeting via Zoom at 9:45 a.m.

Those present: Nayiri Karjian, Ruth Garwood, Brent Gundlah, Allison Gallaher, Bill Smith, Bentley deBardelaben-Phillips, Luke Lindon, and Nanette Pitt

Gathering Prayer

Round Table and Check In

Emily Culp Ashby

The team shared reflection on first draft of the paper. Sections added into the paper would be helpful. Emily joined and Nanette prayed. Insights shared, stating that this paper was impressive. Brent added the need for consistent citations. Bentley appreciated her insights around covenant and how they learned something new there. Paper has substance, the second draft just needs some minor touches and that's the next step is the next draft of the paper. Emily prayed us out.

Katherine Chilcote

Requesting to be a MID, has references and shared with us something she wrote for McCormick. This is our first meeting with Katherine. Nayiri's question is what she's looking to do? Ordained as a pastor or an artist? Committee shared their insights and feelings about her initial papers. She's a mural artist who is currently in seminary. Why did she switch seminaries? Good question to explore with her. Questions around her sense of call linger. Luke stated that he could get a sense of it, but she needs to articulate it. She is asking for additional mentors to help her articulate her sense of call.

Bentley prayed and Katherine introduced herself. The committee introduce themselves. She was coming off a 24 hour shift at the Cleveland Clinic. Interested in creating sacred space and renewal. Looking toward spaces of healing. Works with a reentry center and designing spaces for them. Started at Chicago Seminary, but found herself more acclimated toward McCormick. Currently in CPE at the Clinic. CTS is becoming entirely online. She was looking for a sense of community and people to learn with. CTS is focused less on pastoral ministry as a dialogue where McCormick felt more designed for pastors.

Call has been loud and she has ignored it. Changed from painting a space to creating a space. Her night last night, she felt creative ways to explore and understand her own intuition to help individuals move their mental and physical space towards one of healing. Less focused on object and marketing, but more the artistry of creating spaces.

She spoke of a patient she visited in CPE who was ready to die. She was so moved by the patient and her readiness to go to God. Another visit with a man where she called his grandkids but was too weak to speak. Katherine was able to speak his words into her phone. She wanted to solve a problem, but that isn't always what is needed.

She stated that she is creatively stimulated by talking with people and drawing out of them a collective, creative practice and she generates the art based on that. Doing portraits of homeless folk and writing what they would like their communities to know.

Nanette spoke about how space can be sacramental and that's the task at hand is to help articulate that sense. Bill asked if her call needs or requires ordination. Katherine stated that she saw how St Paul's had

a segregated space between those being served and those who wanted to serve and she thought of how to break down those walls and create a new space for ministry.

Amazing insights on COVID and how to create sacred space and how it is not being created. St Paul has 60 people a day who need food and clothes, and 12 people who worship online. That needs bridged.

Katherine asked how we're responding creatively with our churches in this time. Luke spoke about how his church is (finally) addressing racism and having conversations around police training and our mission team working *with* those we serve vs. *for* those we serve. Nanette spoke about her food bank that her church has and how the community has picked up the ministry and mission with folk who don't attend her church. Her streaming has really helped revitalize and think differently about the church building. They are starting to understand that they are the church, not the building.

Committee is ready to accept her as a MID and we're thinking Melody Ward as her mentor, Nayiri will reach out.

Antigone Lowery

Nannette gives her perspective on Antigone and her responsibility and how she lives out her paper. Antigone is discerning whether she stays in her current role or if she reenlists full-time as an Army Chaplain.

Introductions made and Ruth prayed. Committee liked the paper! Very impressive and powerful story that is Antigone. She is ready to move onto the next step of the ordination process. Nayiri will try to line up an ordination committee meeting with the whole committee so that she is ordained by the end of the year for the Army needs. Antigone prayed us out.

Parking Lot

Thinking of putting Antigone on November 5. Three amazing calls and expressions of the divine. Committee reflected on the great meeting and gave thanks for it.

Submitted by Luke Lindon