

COM Discernment

April 16, 2020

In Attendance: Sue Ferbrache, Ruth Garwood, Anissa Glaser-Bacon, Amy Gopp, Brent Gundlah, Nayiri Karjian, Donna Lane, Luke Lindon, Nannette Pitt, Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips, Bill Smith, and Allison Gallaher joining via ZOOM call

Check in.

10:30 am Antigone Lowery - Plan of Formation.

Committee re-introduced themselves. Antigone was very thorough. Spoke about balancing all her commitments as an Army Chaplain, associate pastor, MiD requirements, Excellence group, and personal life. We learned she is an Enneagram #2, a helper. She is approved to write her ordination paper. Committee was highly impressed!

Committee realized the need for the waiting room option for our calls so our candidates don't pop in while we're talking about them and their journey.

11:15 am Karen Adolphson – from Nayiri: *Karen was received as MID on March 17. She attends NEOSOM. has been on this journey for a while and does not have, in my opinion, much clarity. I like her theology but I don't know about ordination. She is seeing clarity and focus on how she should proceed.*

Committee confused about role and what's up with this candidate. Anissa provide background of when she came in, it seemed association was collecting a lot of spiritual folk to see who would stick. She was supposed to help Anissa twice, but backed out last minute. Brent wondered about the 4-year gap in the paperwork as well.

Committee introduced and checked in. Accepted as MiD in 2017, attended Lay school, and in 2018-2019, serve Bath Church but has serious health issues at home, mostly relating to husband. Only could do choir, and not able to schedule faith formation roles. Had Debbie Ryan-Smith assigned as mentor, last spoke in October 2019. Working to meet up, but COVID-19 changed everything. Minister change at Bath hasn't helped. Felt called to teaching and worship, still feeling like that's the direction and it has been confirmed and affirmed by others. She doesn't feel supported by Bath UCC, she didn't want to move to another church to do ministry until the last year or so.

Nannette asked about Karen's sense of call. She didn't understand the question. Bentley asked about Karen's understanding between ordination and commissioning, she said she's not looking at ordination. Amy then asked after her vision, she said not a pastor but on staff with faith formation.

Allison spoke about the process of ordination is grueling for those who are called and not to do this if you're unsure.

Karen prayed and left the call.

The committee was frustrated. Feels that Karen loves scripture but not service or neighbor, etc. Blamed others. Donna said, "To me, if you don't know anything else, you remember when and where you were called." Lots of ego.

Nayiri will work with Bath UCC to get a group around Karen to support and discern as well as work on a psychological assessment. Committee feels like she's a really good Sunday school teacher and Biblical story-telling, but her journey with this group ends here.

Parking Lot: Nayiri thought she'd have time to figure out between mentor and advisors in the new Manual on Ministry. Hadn't had much time and will come prepared next time for us to talk about this topic.

Submitted by Luke Lindon