

COM Discernment January 16, 2020

In Attendance: Attendance: Brent Gundlah, Nayiri Karjian, Luke Lindon, Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips, Amy Gopp, Sue Ferbrache, Ruth Garwood, Nannette Pitt, and Bill Smith

Absent: Donna Lane, Allison Gallaher, and Anissa Glaser-Bacon

Observing: Tony Clark, from MESA Ministry Team

10 am gather and prepare: Check in's, fav thing to do in off time and meaning we find here.

What are we looking for in the ordination papers: Take a look at the updated Marks of Ministry located here: <https://livingwaterone.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Marks-Assessment-revised-030119.pdf> and hear a little of the journey of the candidate.

10:30 am Matthew Hogue-Smith - Ordination Paper

-Committee reactions to psyche and paper: Impersonal reporting, "Where are you in this paper?" Felt empty and wondering who he was and why he is called. All jargon and no journey. Why do you want to serve Christ and the church? Concern about free-lancing CPE. Nannette stated that we need to balance the academic need with their personal journey. Footnote the source but tell us what they think and why. HOW did Merton form you.

Matthew came into the room, Nanette prayed. Conversation: Passed around a child's shorts found at the border, "God hears the cry of the poor." Matthew's response, "When will *we* hear their cries?" Felt idealistic, but what's the practical? Matthew is still discerning his call, feels more called to national setting and that leadership role than parish ministry. Feels called to be out in the field in public witness. Currently serving as an intern for pastoral care and faith formation. Listened to church and community to need in Lorain county and found mental health being the main issue. Worked on relationship between church and resources to respond to the crisis.

Why work in the church? Matthew said, "As a social worker, Jesus stays at the door." Amy responded, "We are after that story, trying to hear how Jesus changed your life and how you're channeling that into your vocation." Then Matthew shared more of his life story. Committee stated that this is what we need in the paper.

Nanette, "Where are you vulnerable in ministry? How and when do you listen? How do you practice listening?" Matthew's answer: "Not always vulnerable, but always human. Priestly listening. Trying to reflect and not project. Settings like this help me stop and hear."

Bentley pressed Matthew to use “I-statements” and not the “we-statements.” Why resist being vulnerable and what does it mean?

Committee is struggling, felt like this was a sales pitch.

Committee recommends for Matthew: Re-write ordination paper based on Nayiri’s recommendation after he finds another advisor, and goes through a CPE accredited program.

Matthew prayed us out. Felt like he flipped a switch and a further sales pitch and manipulation.

11:15 am Andy Lang - Ordination Paper
-Committee reactions: Best ever.

Sue prayed us in. Stellar paper. Andy will tinker with it, but nothing major in this stage of the game. Closest to his heart is the section of the Trinity. God’s own freedom in relation to us and allows us to reclaim traditions that have been harmful. Reach into tradition that’s liberating and not restricting. Andy always asks “who is not at the table?” That’s in terms with people and our ancestors in our tradition. Can we engage our ancestors in our conversations as well?

Reflection from Tony: “What Andy’s story did was bring out other stories. It opens up the faith conversation in a way that is powerful.”

Committee approved and applauded. March 5th is the date. Andy will do a few improvements such as citations (to Brent), and a few syntax things.

Andy prayed us out.

12 pm Review a few Psychological Assessments.

12:15 Adjourn

Submitted by Luke Lindon