

**Living Water Association
Committee on Ministry
Discernment Work Group**

The Discernment Working Group (“Group”) met via Zoom on Thursday, March 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The following members were in attendance: Nayiri Karjian, Association Minister, Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips, Allison Gallaher, Ruth Garwood, Amy C. Gopp, Brent L. Gundlah, Nanette Pitt, and William H. Smith.

The meeting opened with each person giving a highlight of the place where they are attending the meeting from, and something about the day in light of the coronavirus. Nayiri set out the topics that would be on for discussion: a review of the current documentation for the MID’s, the MID process, and the schooling and alternative paths for ordination.

Nanette presented an exhaustive review of our current documents for those on the ordination path. She presented information from the documentation process used by the Metro Boston Association; the Metro Boston process is spelled out precisely in a five phase detailed manner that all candidates know and must adhere to or ordination. The process can be modified to meet the specific need for each candidate. Nayiri asked that Nanette review the UCC proceed as she continued to refine the Association’s MID process for future use. Bentley agreed to work with Nanette in the creation of a draft for the Association to review and consider. Allison also agreed to assist in the creation of the draft.

Nayiri noted that the Group had not met with each candidate that is currently in discernment, two candidates have never met the Group. She will schedule a meeting with these candidates and the Group. Nanette suggested that there should be a way for each candidate to keep the Group advised of their progress in the ordination process. A discussion of the ordination papers and ideas for the future was opened up by Nayiri, with thoughts coming from Amy, Brent and Bentley; Ruth and Allison contributed to the discussion.

Nayiri opined that there may be a communication gap between the Committee on Ministry and NEOSOM. Amy agreed and shared some thoughts. Bentley and Brent furthered the discussion. The question of NEOSOM’s relevance in today’s environment was left on the table.

The interaction between the Association and the Ohio Conference was discussed. Brent raised the question of whether or not the Association could be a Conference in and of ourselves.

Allison requested that all updated and revised documents be gender neutral.

Next Meeting: review of the Plan of Formation for Antigone C. Lowery.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Smith