

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

The Discernment Working Group (“Group or Committee”) met via Zoom on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The following members were in attendance: Nayiri Karjian, Association Minister, Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips, Sue Ferbrache, Ruth Garwood, Anissa A. Glaser-Bacon, Brent L. Gundlah, Donna-Marie Lane, and William H. Smith.

The meeting opened with prayer offered by Brent L. Gundlah. Following prayer each committee member spoke of recent joys and challenges that have impacted their lives.

A brief discussion regarding the candidacy of Emily Culp Ashby took place prior to Emily joining the meeting. When Emily joined the meeting, prayer was offered by Bentley de Bardelaben-Phillips. The committee chair, Ruth Garwood began the general discussion with Emily, and specifically inquired into the conditions at the church, St. Paul, following the resignation of Pastor Doug Horner. Emily spoke of the difficulties facing the church; Nayiri Karjian offered the Association’s assistance to the church. Following a meaningful question and answer session the committee decided that Emily was ready to write her ordination paper. Emily ended the session with prayer.

Christina Green joined the meeting accompanied by David Hill. Prayer was offered by Anissa A. Glaser-Bacon. The central question surrounding her candidacy was whether or not her experience and attendance at the Shalem Institute was a substitute for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Christina gave an overview of where her faith journey had taken her and where she is now; she opined that her experience at the Shalem Institute was a viable alternative to CPE, and as such there was no need for her to complete a CPE program. David Hill provided a strong reference for Christina and he too suggested that a CPE program was not necessary for the ordination of a minister. Following a meaningful question and answer session the committee decided that Christina should complete a CPE program and also begin her ordination paper. The Association will provide scholarship assistance to Christina for the CPE. Christina ended the session with prayer.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., full Committee on Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Smith