

Living Water Association, UCC
Committee on Ministry | Credentialing Working Group Notes
11 June 2020

Present: Pam Beck, David Durkit, Sam Greening, Jill Hartman Goodman, John King, Nayiri Karjian, Patti Komperda

Jason Stitt

Pre-Interview Discussion

- Licensed for the 1st time last year for St Paul Parma
- Church mostly his extended family—its future in question
- Need to be encouraged to reach out to other churches - Too happy with status quo?
- Health issues — below-the-knee amputation
- Needs to attend healthy practices for ministry and Isn't attending anything much
- Does he need encouragement?

Ensuing discussion about weak/struggling churches in general

Interview

- Welcome and Introductions. Prayer by Patti.
- Opening up this week for in person worship (maintaining virtual service too)
- Church doing well at beginning of year: financially/attendance - 15-20 (last year) to 25-30 (this year)
- Discussed plans for re-opening—social distancing will be easy based on size/attendance
- Patti encouraged him to use ALL guidelines re: reopening (esp. temp. checks)
- Jill said at-home temp. checks were another possibility
- Brought up pets: Pets allowed in worship, and some have begun to attend with their pets
- David asked about people w/allergies, Jason said pets are kept to 1 side of sanctuary
- Discussion of his amputation and how it helped attract new visitor who was also amputee
- Doing well — prosthetic — no longer needs cane
- Discussion of his lack of attendance at assoc/conf events
- Plans to attend Generosity Festival, and needs to attend next healthy practices event—was told it was a requirement for licensing
- “It's been a while” since he took a course
- John asked about involvement with association - explained why he couldn't go to annual gathering
- Pam asked about activities director job: does he use same activities in church? Jason said no
- Possible amputee support group at St Paul
- Jason had no questions for us

Post-Interview Discussion

- Sounds like he's improved in wellness since last year, more able to do what he is asked
- Jill moved that he be licensed for another year with expectations (1 healthy practice/1 continuing Education event for authorized ministers (Seminary oriented))
- Decision by consensus
- Sam will reach out to see if he'll be receptive to mentoring

Jason's Return

- Jason told he is re-licensed
- Must do a healthy practice and take a course from Neosom
- Encouraged to do other stuff w/assoc

Terri Reynolds

Pre-Interview Discussion

- She is a Teacher, from St. John's Powhatan Point which is in the midst of an interim
- Licensing best for churches in that area due to resources
- Has just started coursework with NEOSOM and will encouraged (already willing) to continue
- Perhaps recommend UCC-style books to read (Borg, Spong, etc)

Interview

- Welcome and Introductions. Pamela prayed
- Terri talked about her call. Feels called to be a teacher.
- Been involved with congregation her entire life—it's her family. Currently teaching confirmation class
- In process of being installed as elder and has held many other offices
- Found out she enjoyed leading worship
- Teaches lessons (Bible as curriculum), doesn't deliver sermons
- Bible provides answers / meets needs
- God holds people in the palm of their hands
- What does she think she's being licensed to do? Called to preach as well as teach?
- Described how she helped interim pastor. She might be an agent in reactivating Pioneer Larger Parish comprised of 5 UCC congregations in the area in Monroe Co
- David asked about when people should be eligible to take communion
- She thinks taking communion requires a commitment, but not necessarily confirmation
- Discussion ensued re: nature of confirmation / relationship to first communion
- David addressed inclusive language – Terri reported that congregation is “integrating IL very slowly”
- Cmte members encouraged her to be part of that change
- John asked about the ways she's studied / grown theological - 3 classes with NEOSOM (2 NT, 1 polity)
- Discussion ensued re: meaning of YHWH. Marcus Borg books were recommended to her

Post-Interview Discussion

- David's appreciation of her grew up reading her recommendation
- Her desire to serve was discussed positively
- Patti moved that we license her to the PLP for 1 year
- Decision by consensus

Terri's Return

- Informed that she is licensed for 1 year
- Licensed for all 5 churches in parish
- Encouraged her to see herself as preacher and help the 5 churches be in closer relationship

Note taker: Sam Greening

