

Living Water Association, UCC
Committee on Ministry
Credentialing Working Group Notes
8 October 2020

Present: Pam Beck, David Herrin, Jill Harkins Goodman, Sprite Johnson, Nayiri Karjian, John King, Deb Oden

Opening Prayer: David

Jeremy Wanton – Eastview UCC, Shaker Heights; 2nd 1-year Renewal of Licensure - **APPROVED**

Prayer: David

Faced a number of challenges & met with grace and respect – mostly regarding changes; has been working with Michael Howard serving on the steering committee; things are going well; this has been a year that has stretched him; learning a lot about the UCC & how supportive the denomination is of the pastors, has received lots of resources, conversations, etc., especially during this time of pandemic; participated in Healthy Practice in 2019; covenant is intentional relationship with integrity between parties that is allowed to grow; still attending classes at Point Park University, with 2 courses left to take in April/May of 2021; has mortuary license; didn't plan to do pastoral ministry, but God intervened in that plan and sent him to this congregation; will be delegate to Synod in 2023; working with J. Rickoff Elementary School in partnership with other schools to support students; may be some places where both Plymouth & Eastview United Churches of Christ (Shaker Hts.) can work together; when she was in Cleveland for her own book signing, Michelle Obama met with their book club & stayed for worship

Steve Miller – St. John's UCC, Massillon; 1-year Renewal of Licensure – **APPROVED**

Prayer: John

Things going as well as we can with this pandemic; streaming only because of the level of infection in the county; physical distancing & wearing masks; visitation is virtual & over the phone; nursing homes are pretty well shut up – most difficult thing is finding someone if they leave their home to go to the hospital or nursing home; feels called more than ever – helping people to know that the church still cares, even if we can't visit face-to-face; need to find a way to identify more children/youth (have about a half dozen) and connect them with the elderly to share wisdom; working on historical projects – finding information about family members who were part of St. John's way back when – been a member since his baptism & reaches out to others who might also have memories; not asking for a more specific designation, "pastor is more general, so isn't limited in his focus; misses face-to-face pastoral ministry; attended a Healthy Practice in 2020;

Carol Leahy – Bethany UCC, Cleveland – Renewal of 1-year Licensure – **DENIED**, we will reconsider if the congregation makes a formal covenant with Carol

Prayer: Pam

Unclear what all her activities actually mean; need to find out more about the church – are they still renting & what does that mean – when/how do they use it?; previously licensed for 3 years; last Healthy Practice was in 1917; things are stable – good; church people are sticking together like a family; sold building to Emmanuel Church (not sure what denominational connection, if any; Latine; services are mostly in Spanish) & rent space (sometimes sanctuary, sometimes church hall); languages and music are so different that it would be difficult for both congregations to do things together; holding in-person worship – 8-10 worshipers; doesn't know what was done with the money from the sale of the building; serves as guest minister with weekly gratuity – for 8 years – (not formally called as pastor); governing board will be meeting quarterly – she meets with them; controlled drug counseling associate – meets with those who have been charged with DUI (alternative to a 3-day jail sentence), needs to renew that license as well – no formal worship involved, but recognizes informal worship experiences; mother died recently so is taking a Sunday off to deal with details; covenant – sacred relationship; no one has participated in either Association or Conference gathering in the past year – most of the congregation isn't either on-line or able to travel; not in good standing and needs to participated in a Healthy Practice – next one is 17 Nov. (online) on Self-Care, Nayiri will think about ways she can participate; wants to take Interim Ministry training when it is next offered; uncomfortable with computers

**italics – conversation prior to interview*

Next Scheduled Meetings
Credentialing: 12 November 2020
Committee on Ministry – 3 December 2020