

## Credentialing Working Group of COM

January 9, 2020

10:12 a.m. The group gathered; we made preparations and introduced ourselves.

Present: John King, Deb Oden, Nayiri Karjian, Pam Beck, Sam Greening, Jill Harkins Goodman

Absent: David Durkit, Sprite Johnson, Bertrice Wood

### **10:44 am Rev. Jonathan Dodson**

Jonathan is a professional chaplain ordained in UCC. He currently has endorsement for chaplaincy in healthcare. So, he has been discerning a call to military chaplaincy. He inquired with the VA, which required Governmental Certification for chaplain work. He has a family history of military service in the Navy, which motivated him to seek service in that branch first. Credentialing Group endorsed him last year for Governmental Chaplaincy (Navy Reserves - Nov 2018). He was interviewed for a Navy Reserve Chaplaincy position in February and November but was not selected. So, he is discerning if he should apply for Army Reserve instead. To pursue this, he needs a letter of Governmental Chaplaincy endorsement from us that is specific to the Army.

Jill Harkman Goodman moved that we Rev. Dodson's request, John seconded. Rev. Jonathan Dodson's request for Governmental Chaplaincy endorsement from specific to the Army was unanimously **approved**.

### **11:20 a.m. Janis and Joel Montgomery**

Janis and Joel are a married couple. They each needed to interview separately, since their children were sleeping in the car as we met. Since July 1, 2019, they have been pastors at Christ United UCC, Olmsted Falls. This is a federated church. Three years ago, this congregation formed as a combined Federated Church with roots in Presbyterian and UCC congregations. Janis and Joel are Ordained Presbyterians applying for **dual standing in the UCC**. Both share ministerial responsibilities. In practice, their ministry has evolved such that her pastoral focus is on preaching and faith formation, while Joel focuses on liturgy and worship. This is an ONA congregation, which was something that Joel and Janis were both happy to find. Janis expressed her vision that the coming together of those churches is a manifestation of the Kingdom of God as a present reality that is yet still becoming. Joel enjoys theatre and clowning. He said that, coming from a more conservative geographic area, he was delighted to move to a more progressive congregation that is comfortable, for example, referring to God in feminine gender, and speaking boldly of social justice issues. This feels like a very comfortable position for both.

John King moved that Joel Montgomery be approved for dual standing in the UCC. Pam Beck seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Sam Greening moved that Janis Montgomery be approved for dual standing in the UCC. Deb Oden seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by John King