

**Committee on Ministry
Discernment Working Group
November 19, 2020**

Present: Nayiri Karjian, Brent Gundlah, Allison Gallaher, Ruth Garwood, Nanette Pitt, Bill Smith, Amy Gopp, Donna-Marie Lane, and Luke Lindon

Absent: , Anissa Glazer-Bacon (questions on her schedule and future involvement), Sue Ferbrache, and Alan..?

Team gathered and Brent has found a call in Utah. Which is a YAY and a great blow to our spirits.

Brenda Waddell

The team was overwhelmed by Brenda's plan of formation, feels like it's an appeal that she's already formed. Amy had questions about what a plan of formation actually entails.

Introductions, Amy prayed, and we were off and running with Brenda taking the lead.

Brenda was excited to graduate, then the pandemic hit. She described her call and resisted it but kept coming across folk who have been rejected or shunned by the church.

Ministering to the gay community is where she is drawn, and yet feels the wider call to justice. Loved her CPE experience. Learned about her strengths and weaknesses and feels called to help the need she has found in people.

Committee reflected: We got a lot of information in her plan, but where's the growing edges for her in terms of the marks of ministry?

Brenda reflected that she's working on what's the difference between being prophetic and being judgmental. Hard to meet those who have different political stances and dehumanize the LGBTQ community. Advantage of the pandemic is the ability to watch a lot of ministers on streaming. Broadening her knowledge and faith.

Bill asked after Brenda's understanding of social justice. She stated that it's caused division in her own family. She shared how.

Amy stated how the call is apparent and how she'd love to see more on theological praxis.

Ruth stated that Brenda needs to reflect on the marks, showing where the gifts are and where are the struggles are, and here's what to develop.

Nanette reflected that this group isn't a hoop, it's a group that wants to know you and encourage you in your progress. This group is looking to process with you all the things the call entails. Nanette stated that Brenda is the driver of the contact and encouraged her to communicate more often.

Brenda reflected frustration with her current mentor. Ruth and Nayiri will come up with a new mentor for Brenda.

Emily Culp Ashby

Committee loved the paper. Amy stated that this was the best ordination paper she has

ever read. Emily came in, introductions, Amy prayed. And then connection problems and tech gremlins attacked. Committee praised Emily and that was about it.

Emily asked about next step, which is to set an ordination worship and interview with the rest of the committee. Dates were bantered about. Nayiri will reach out and confirm the date one way or another. Emily prayed us out.

Parking Lot

Nayiri was thinking about a process for multiple paths to implement for our group. And work on clarifying some documents. Professionalism training with candidates and with the wider group as well on good ethics and behavior.

Submitted by,
Luke Lindon