

Living Water Association, UCC  
Committee on Ministry  
Credentialing Working Group Notes  
12 November 2020

Present: Pam Beck, David Herrin, Jill Harkins Goodman, Sam Greening, Sprite Johnson, Nayiri Karjian, Patti Komperda, John King

Opening conversation

**Heidi McDougall** – pastor at Strongsville UCC; **Relicensed for 3 years** [1<sup>st</sup> 3-year licensure]

Prayer: Patti Komperda

- › Going well in spite of being tired of the pandemic; only a few “restless” folks – but their sanctuary is much smaller than their church neighbours;
- › YouTube numbers are holding steady, as is giving; wondered about doing Stewardship, since they couldn't do it as usual this year – may be a good time to try something different, such as sometime in the spring;
- › pre-record worship and put it on YouTube on Sunday with some of the pieces done at different times, especially music using renovated organ;
- › a movie was filmed at their church: Desperazzo [Italian], (premiering in Toronto);
- › still feels strong call to Strongsville;
- › appreciates the regular communication from the Association, as well as the swift response when she reaches out; appreciates our “support without demand”
- › free lunches can't be offered, but wasn't about the food as much as the connections between people;
- › why licensed and not ordained? Started through the ordination process – husband died while she was in seminary, “brick wall” with the UMC – can do ministry at her age without ordination – husband ready to enjoy retirement together;
- › congregation is growing for a number of reasons – place feels welcome; hoping to become an ONA congregation through the process – whenever people can regather – because they live like one; works well together with the other clergy in Strongsville;

**Charles Brown** – pastor at Sheffield Lake; **Relicensed for 3 years**

Prayer: David Herrin

- › Worshiping in person since June with 8-15 people (distancing; masks; limit who will be in the chancel); removed books from pews with a couple of women who come in and disinfect the sanctuary – couldn't do it if they were larger; wears gloves while handing out individual communion elements (vs. intinction)
- › Will be doing Thanksgiving food baskets with another group;
- › Started with this congregation in July 2016
- › Question about the Holy Spirit – with us always; probably needs to talk about her more;
- › How has your theology changed/grown/matured since 2006? – can't answer since he doesn't remember the paper
- › Born into a Congregational → UCC congregation & never left
- › Holding his boundaries re: being compensated reasonably for what he is doing; aware of the next person who serves the church

- › Former member left the church \$100,000 – used carefully (including paying Charles) without dissension; upcoming conversation – the money will not last, so need to talk about his hours/compensation for the future;
- › Majority of the congregation is old and dwindling;
- › Wasn't able to register for the A LWA Annual Meeting (problem with the computer process); missed hearing Bishop Flunder;
- › Previously very active in the Association, serving on a number committees; still tries to get to all the LWA, including Healthy Practices;
- › Question about why have to meet regularly – we are in covenant; helps us keep in touch with how the ministry is going in his particular/specific ministry setting; we are here for support
- › New recommendations: if a lay minister has been in a place for 7 years, then consider about the growth of the person re: alternate routes to ordination; Charles (licensed/relicensed since 2006 in a number of places) is happy with what/how/where he is doing ministry;

**Tina Green** – pastor at First Congregational Church of Fairport Harbour; **Relicensed for 3 years**

Prayer: Pam Beck

- › Licensed since 2004 for this congregation;
- › Currently taking CPE as a MiD; getting ready to start on her ordination paper
- › Technology has changed; began as Christian Educator; children have grown up and (most have) left home; has learned and grown a great deal – congregation has grown together with her
- › Although small, the congregation is clear that they don't want to close – continuing an active ministry
- › Remote worship, probably at least not until Lent;
- › Changing how they are doing other in-person events (making luminaries as families; prayer meetings in the parking lot);
- › Working with a rabbi to put together a remote worship service for Thanksgiving
- › Doing creative things with the chancel;
- › Wants to keep on doing what she is loving do – may not need all of the 3 years of licensure due to being ordained

**Paul Richardson – Ecclesiastical Endorsement for the national Association of Professional Chaplains** [toward Board Certification] [next step is to send documentation of this endorsement is to Steven Boyed – MESA]

Prayer: Sam Greening

- › Serving in a RC/faith-based hospital; 3 chaplains & a director (priest) of mission
- › How have things changed with COVID? – mostly the same with non-COVID patients (wearing full safety gear); with COVID patients in isolation it is virtual & reach out to family;
- › Feeling the COVID spike that is affecting the whole country;
- › How are you doing/taking care of yourself? – commiserate with the other chaplains; decompresses during the 30-minute drive home (takes off his tie), plays music, bicycles, walks in Edgewater Park when home;
- › Intentionally taking regular time off (hospital is encouraging)
- › Why seeking certification now after serving 7 years? Started with the Baptists (own background) – started the UCC process... 1<sup>st</sup> needed Privilege of Call;
- › What difference will Endorsement make? Necessary step toward Certification (goal for most people in chaplaincy – validation that this is a called ministry – helps the institution)

**Next Scheduled Meetings:**  
**Credentialing: 10 December 2020**  
**Committee on Ministry – 3 December 2020**