

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA

Committee on Ministry Report

March 14, 2009

CONSENT AGENDA (Items 1-9)

1. Kenneth J. Ribe: Request Permission to Continue Work Outside the Jurisdiction

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, from January 14, 2009, to January 13, 2010, the Reverend Kenneth J. Ribe be granted permission to labor outside the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as full-time interim pastor for Zion United Church of Christ, Le Sueur, Minnesota. It is noted that, under the provision of G-11.0401, "such permission and consent shall be reviewed and renewed annually."

2. Familia de Fe (New Church Development), Minneapolis, MN: Change in Terms of Call for Walter Chuquimia, Pastor

To **recommend** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has concurred with the actions of the Steering Committee and the Church Development Team in the following changes in the terms of call for 2009, and until otherwise modified, for the Reverend Walter Chuquimia, full-time pastor for Familia de Fe (New Church Development)

Salary	\$25,752
Housing	\$25,752 (Housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2009 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this session.)
Continuing Ed Allowance	\$1,200 per year, (Cumulative over three years to \$3,600)
Professional Expenses including	
Auto Allowance at IRS Rate	\$2,000 vouchered
Books	\$400 vouchered
Continuing Ed Leave	Two weeks per year, (Cumulative over three years to six weeks)
Vacation	One Month (Includes 4 Sundays and notes that a maximum of 10 days of vacation time may be carried over to the next year.)
Pension	Full

3. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN: Denise Dunbar-Perkins and David Liddle Renewed As Parish Associates

- a. To **recommend** to Presbytery that the invitation of the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, to the Reverend Denise Dunbar-Perkins to serve in a parish associate relationship, without remuneration, be approved for one year, effective March 9, 2009, to March 8, 2010.

- b. To **recommend** to Presbytery that the invitation of the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, to the Reverend David M. Liddle to serve in a .25 time parish associate relationship, with remuneration, be approved for one year, effective March 9, 2009, to March 8, 2010.

4. **Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, MN: Renew Simon Tot Dhol as Commissioned Lay Pastor**
(See Appendix 1)

To **recommend** to Presbytery, with documents presented from the Commissioned Lay Pastor Committee (CLPC), that the commission as lay pastor at Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, MN, be renewed for Simon Tot Dhol from March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010.

5. **Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, MN: Moderator Appointed**

To **recommend** that the Presbytery concur with the appointment of the Reverend William Hoffman as moderator of Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview, MN, as of February 16, 2009, until an interim minister begins his/her service.

6. **Linda Loving: Permission to Labor Outside the Geographical Bounds of the Presbytery**

To **recommend** to Presbytery that, from February 2, 2009, to January 31, 2010, the Reverend Linda Loving, an honorably retired member of the Presbytery, be granted permission to labor outside the geographical bounds of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area and within the bounds of the Presbytery of Chicago as full-time Minister for Evangelism at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

7. **Presbyterian Church of Le Sueur, Le Sueur, MN: Change in Terms of Call for the Reverend Newell Krogmann**

- a. To **recommend** to Presbytery, upon the concurrence of the congregation on February 8, 2009, (1) that the full-time pastor position be reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and (2) that the terms of call for the Reverend Newell Krogmann be changed as follows and become effective February 1, 2009.

Salary	\$12,303
Housing allowance	\$16,950
Social Security Offset	\$2,236
Professional Expense	\$1000 vouchered
Other allowances remain as they were last year, and vacation time and study leave remain unchanged.	

AND

- b. **M/S/C to recommend** to Presbytery that it direct the stated clerk to communicate the above action to the Board of Pensions.

8. **Andrew Riverside Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN: Reappointment of Harry Maghakian as Stated Supply Pastor**

To **recommend** to Presbytery, with the concurrence of the session of Andrew Riverside Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, that the Reverend Harry Maghakian be reappointed to a one-year term as half-time stated supply pastor, from March 1, 2009, to February 28, 2010, with no changes in the terms of call.

9. **Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN: Reappointment of Daniel W. Johnson as Stated Supply Pastor**

To **recommend** to Presbytery, with the concurrence of the session of Knox Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN, that the Reverend Daniel W. Johnson be reappointed to a six-month term as full-time stated supply pastor, from January 1, 2009, to June 30, 2009, with an effective salary of \$ 25,750 for six months.

REGULAR AGENDA (Item 10-11)

10. **Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, MN: Approve Mauro Souza as Commissioned Lay Pastor**

(See Appendix 2)

To **recommend** to Presbytery, with documents presented from the Commissioned Lay Pastor Committee (CLPC), that the commission as lay pastor at Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights, MN, be approved for Mauro Souza from March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010.

11. **First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, Minnesota: Terms of Call for Reverend Neil Craigan as Pastor**

(See Appendix 3)

Subject to the successful completion of the background check:

- a. To **concur** with the judgment of the Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, that the Reverend Neil Craigan is suitable for the position of pastor.
- b. To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has examined the Reverend Neil Craigan on his Christian faith and views in theology, the sacraments, and the government of this church (G-11.0402) as well as his responses to this Presbytery's membership questions

AND

recommends that the Presbytery receive him into membership.

- c. To **note** that the position was widely advertised:
52 PIF forms were received
23 from women

1 from racial/ethnic persons
4 persons were heard to preach
1 woman
9 persons were interviewed
2 women
and that 2 persons were offered the position; 1 accepted

- d. To **report** to Presbytery that the Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, has implemented its search process in conformance with the provisions of Equal Employment Opportunity for ministers and has considered candidates without regard to race, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability, or marital status.
- e. To **recommend** to Presbytery that, if the way be clear by congregational action taken on March 1, 2009, the call of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, to the Reverend Neil Craigan as full-time pastor be approved effective May 1, 2009, according to the following terms:

Cash Salary (includes housing allowance)	\$26,000
Housing Allowance	\$32,000
Medical/Dental Supplemental	\$2,000 vouchered
Soc. Sec. Offset	\$4,000
Automobile Allowance	IRS rate, vouchered up to \$1,500
Continuing Ed Allowance	\$1,200 per year, (Cumulative over three years to \$3,600)
Other Professional Expenses	\$2,500 vouchered
Continuing Ed Leave	Two weeks per year, (Cumulative over three years to six weeks)
Vacation	One Month
Pension	Full
Moving Expense	Up to \$10,000 vouchered
Sabbatical	No
Other	1 Sunday off/quarter (with Session approval)

AND

that the call be forwarded to the Presbytery of National Capital, to be placed in the hands of the Reverend Neil Craigan with the request that, if the way be clear, he be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area,

AND

that the Reverend Neil Craigan be granted permission to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as full-time pastor of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, until his credentials have been received

AND

that upon receipt of his credentials, the Reverend Neil Craigan be enrolled as an active member of Presbytery,

AND

that the Reverend Neil Craigan be appointed moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, effective May 1, 2009.

- f. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend William Eisenhower will complete his service as interim pastor and as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, White Bear Lake, MN, effective April 30, 2009.

AND

to **thank** the moderator for his service to the Presbytery.

- g. To **recommend** to Presbytery that the Reverend William Eisenhower be transferred to the member-at-large roll of Presbytery.

- h. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend William Eisenhower has been approved for the 2009 Pulpit Supply List.

REPORTS (Items 12-21)

12. First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, Minnesota: Request Permission to Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee

To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry has approved the request of the session First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN, to elect a Pastor Nominating committee at a duly called meeting of the congregation on January 25, 2009.

13. Administrative Commission for Installation: David Colby, Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

To **report** to Presbytery that the following arrangements were approved for the installation of the Reverend David Colby as full-time pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Date: March 22, 2009

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN

AND

That the following persons were appointed as members of the Administrative Commission:

Ministers: Paul Capetz, Associate Professor, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN David Mwihiya, Member at large, Church of All Nations, Columbia Heights,	Elders: Nancy Colby, Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul, MN Paula Cooley, Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN
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MN David Van Dyke, Pastor, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN	
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AND

That the moderator of the Presbytery, Elder JoAnn Simser, preside and propound the Constitutional questions.

14. Background Checks Completed: Neil Craigan and Joo Kim

To **report** to Presbytery that satisfactory background checks have been received for Neil Craigan and Joo Kim.

15. Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN: Report on Congregational Meeting to Elect Pastor

To **report** to Presbytery that, at a duly called meeting of Knox Presbyterian Church, on February 1, 2009, the congregation voted by written ballot to elect The Reverend Joo Kim as Designated Pastor.

16. First Presbyterian Church, Maple Plain, MN: Report of Triennial Session Visit

To **report** to Presbytery that a session visitation, as required by G-11.0502c, has been held with First Presbyterian Church, Maple Plain, MN, on November 20, 2008.

17. First Presbyterian Church, Baldwin WI: Interim Pastor Contract with Janet Ruark

Subject to the successful completion of the background check:

- a. To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on ministry has concurred in the invitation of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Baldwin, WI, to the Reverend Janet Ruark to serve as three-quarter time interim pastor, effective March 1, 2009, to February 28, 2010 according to the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$31,489 (includes housing/utility allowance \$0)
Automobile Allowance	IRS rate, vouchered up to \$3,000
Continuing Ed Allowance	\$900 per year (Cumulative over three years to \$2,700)
Continuing Ed Leave	Two weeks per year (Cumulative over three years to six weeks)
Vacation	One Month
Pension	Full
Sabbatical	No

- b. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend Janet Ruark has been appointed moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Baldwin, WI, effective March 1, 2009.

- c. To **report** to Presbytery that the Reverend Paul Martin has completed his service as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Baldwin, WI, effective February 28, 2009,

AND

to thank the moderator for his service to the Presbytery.

18. Entrance Interview Completed: Joy Smith

To **report** to Presbytery that an entrance interview has been completed for Joy Smith, Pastor, Church of the Apostles, Burnsville, MN, on February 4, 2009.

19. First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, MN: Report of Congregational Meeting To Approve Change in Terms of Call for Pastor, Reverend David Reiter

To **report** to Presbytery that the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, MN, voted on January 4, 2009, to approve the Terms of Call for Reverend David Reiter to serve as half-time pastor beginning June 1, 2009.

20. Celebration of Ordination Anniversaries:

To **report** to Presbytery that the Committee on Ministry voted to approve the recognition of the following ordination anniversaries at the March 14, 2009 presbytery meeting:

Ordination Anniversaries in 2009

65 Years The Rev. George K. Tjaden	63 Years The Rev. Lyndon L. Schendel
62 Years The Rev. John H. Sinclair	55 Years The Rev. Calvin W. Didier The Rev. C. Ray Fenton The Rev. Merle E. Strohbehn
50 Years The Rev. Harold C. Freeman The Rev. Robert F. Hart The Rev. Richard P. Massaro The Rev. Donald S. Milloy	45 Years The Rev. LeRoy Haynes The Rev. Larry L. Hickle The Rev. Kenneth L. Kleidon
40 Years The Rev. Dr. James Cook The Rev. Richard Headen The Rev. H. Lyle Rozeboom	35 Years The Rev. Calvin L. Cooper The Rev. William D. Eisenhower The Rev. Eugene H. Orr The Rev. Gregory H. Ritter The Rev. Jack Schaffer The Rev. Richard D. Weis
30 Years The Rev. Julia O. Christensen The Rev. Gary L. Elg The Rev. Thomas W. Forster-Smith The Rev. Gary L. Hanson The Rev. Kristine M. Holmgren The Rev. Ethel Kay Livingston The Rev. Dr. Sharon Mook	25 Years The Rev. John F. Crosby The Rev. Roger D. Ezell The Rev. Linda M. Hustad-Mell The Rev. Elizabeth Raitt The Rev. Theresa Roberts The Rev. Scott Stapleton The Rev. David J. Stark The Rev. Gary Titusdahl

<p>20 Years The Rev. Katherine Estes Collins The Rev. Jonathan B. Good The Rev. O. Carl Grosse The Rev. Judith A. Kim The Rev. Deborah D. Lind-Schmitz The Rev. David M. Maghakian The Rev. Jamie L. Schultz</p>	<p>15 Years The Rev. Peggy B. Good The Rev. Paul M. Johnson The Rev. Jin Kim The Rev. Katherine S. Michael The Rev. Tammy Rider The Rev. David Van Dyke</p>
<p>10 Years The Rev. Lisa A. P. Watson</p>	<p>5 Years The Rev. April Davis Campbell The Rev. William E. Day, Jr. The Rev. Howard Dotson The Rev. Joshua D. Heikkila The Rev. Medhat Yowkem</p>

21. Vacant Positions Report:

The Committee on Ministry **reports** to Presbytery that the following positions are vacant and receiving dossiers for installed positions:

Bloomington, MN, **Oak Grove Presbyterian Church**, (Pastor, Head of Staff)

Buffalo, MN, **Buffalo Presbyterian Church**, (Pastor)

Claremont, MN, **First Presbyterian Church**, (Pastor)

Appendix 1
Commission Form
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
Lay Pastor's Commission

Simon Tot Dhol

Date of ordination as an elder in the PC(USA): May 7, 2000

Effective Dates of Commission: March 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010
(*one year maximum*)

The mission of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is to help its congregations and minister members thrive in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. As servant minister, the presbytery will help to fan the coals of ministry and mission in the congregations. It will foster cooperative alliances among and provide resources to congregations. It will intentionally care for the congregations and clergy members of the presbytery.

How does this Commission further the mission of the local congregation?

Church of All Nations' desire for this Commissioned Lay Pastor from a different culture is clearly in accord with the congregation's deliberate commitment to multiculturalism. The specific candidate, Simon Tot Dhol, born and raised in Makar, Sudan, will meet the unmet needs for ministry to Church of All Nations' Sudanese members. Simon Tot Dhol's ability to speak Nuer and Arabic and also to understand the dynamics of Sudanese culture will allow pastoral functions to be provided in a way that is helpful for the growth of the congregation.

Focus of Commission / Position Description:

The Commissioned Lay Pastor will provide a balanced ministry of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and organizational leadership to the Sudanese membership at Church of All Nations. The CLP will also aid Sudanese immigrants in their social adjustment to the Twin Cities.

Responsibilities: (The listed items are sample responsibilities taken from another Commission.)

- 1) Lead Sunday worship, including preaching (Sudanese and combined services)
- 2) Oversee home Bible study groups, including lesson preparation
- 3) Training of Sudanese leaders (elders and Sunday school teachers)
- 4) Visit members
- 5) Follow-up on Sudanese visitors
- 6) Foster a climate of prayer and Bible study
- 7) Advise Pastor/Head of Staff of cultural/spiritual/social needs
- 8) Be a resource for mission possibilities here and in Sudan
- 9) Administer sacraments and perform other pastoral duties as authorized in this commission (See below)

Working Relationships:

- 1) Relates to Pastor/Head of Staff as colleague
- 2) Relates to session as resource
- 3) Relates to Sudanese members as pastor
- 4) Relates to Sudanese elders as advisor/resource/translator/liaison

The Candidate as a Commissioned Lay Pastor is authorized to:

Administer the Lord's Supper	<u> X </u>
Administer the Sacrament of Baptism	<u> X </u>
Moderate the session of the congregation	<u> X </u>
Have a vote in meetings of the presbytery (Recorded as an elder for the sake of parity)	<u> X </u>
Perform services of Christian marriage (Session approval required for each case)	<u> X </u>
Lead worship	<u> X </u>
Preach the gospel (If yes, how often?)	<u> X </u> <u>Weekly</u>
Conduct funerals, memorial services and committal services	<u> X </u>
Level One Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training completed	<u>November 3, 2007</u>
Background check completed	<u>Yes</u>
Training in parameters of confidentiality (Conducted by Senior Pastor)	

Terms of Compensation:

- Salary: \$3,600
- Housing (if approved for all elements in the Book of Order): None
- Continuing Education time: 2 weeks
- Continuing Education/Book allowance: \$500
- Professional expenses: \$1,000
- Vacation time: Two weeks

Hours of service: 10 hours per week

Accountable to: The Rev. Jin S. Kim, Head of Staff

Appendix 2
Commission Form
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area
Lay Pastor Commission

Mauro Souza

Date of Ordination as PC(USA) Elder: Jan. 6, 2008

Effective Dates of Commission: March 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010
(*one year maximum*)

Focus of Commission (position description is attached):

The mission of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is to help its congregations and minister members thrive in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. As servant minister, the presbytery will help to fan the coals of ministry and mission in the congregations. It will foster cooperative alliances among and provide resources to congregations. It will intentionally care for the congregations and clergy members of the presbytery.

How does this Commission further the mission of the local congregation?

Church of All Nations' desire for this Commissioned Lay Pastor from a different culture is clearly in accord with the congregation's deliberate commitment to multiculturalism. Coming from a very diverse and multicultural society in Brazil, Mauro has a vision for the multicultural church. He sees the future of the Brazilian immigrant ministry in the US as being bound up in the multicultural movement in a globalized age. The Brazilian Ministry under Mauro's leadership has been fully vested in CAN's life and mission. This Commission will help Church of All Nations expand the vision towards grace, forgiveness and reconciliation as Mauro Souza helps in building a strong fellowship between members of CAN and the Brazilian Ministry.

Focus of Commission (Job Description is attached.)

The Commissioned Lay Pastor will provide a balanced ministry of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and organizational leadership to the Brazilian membership at Church of All Nations. The CLP will also aid Brazilian immigrants in their social adjustment to the Twin Cities.

Responsibilities: (The listed items are sample responsibilities taken from another Commission.)

- 10) Lead Sunday worship, including preaching (Brazilian and combined services)
- 11) Oversee home Bible study groups, including lesson preparation
- 12) Training of Brazilian leaders and new member class.
- 13) Visit members
- 14) Follow-up on Brazilian visitors
- 15) Foster a climate of prayer and Bible study
- 16) Advise Pastor/Head of Staff of cultural/spiritual/social needs
- 17) Be a resource for mission possibilities here and in Brazil
- 18) Administer sacraments and perform other pastoral duties as authorized in this commission (See below)

Working Relationships:

- 1) Relates to Pastor/Head of Staff as colleague
- 2) Relates to session as resource
- 3) Relates to Brazilian members as pastor

The Candidate as a Commissioned Lay Pastor is authorized to:

Administer the Lord's Supper	<u> X </u>
Administer the Sacrament of Baptism	<u> X </u>
Moderate the session of the congregation	<u> X </u>
Have a vote in meetings of the presbytery (Recorded as an elder for the sake of parity)	<u> X </u>
Perform services of Christian marriage (Session approval required for each case)	<u> X </u>
Lead worship	<u> X </u>
Preach the gospel (If yes, how often?)	<u> X </u> <u>Weekly</u>
Conduct funerals, memorial services and committal services	<u> X </u>
Length of Commission	<u>1 Year</u>

Level One Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training completed November 3, 2007

Background Check completed Pending

Training in parameters of confidentiality (Conducted by Senior Pastor)

Terms of Compensation:

- Salary: \$6,750
- Housing (if approved for all elements in the Book of Order): \$21,600
- Continuing Education time: 2 weeks
- Continuing Education/Book allowance: \$1,000
- Professional Expenses: \$5,000
- Vacation Time: Two weeks

Hours of Service: Full time

Accountable to: Rev. Jin S. Kim, Head of Staff

Position Description
Brazilian Ministry Commissioned Lay Pastor

Requirements:

1. Term shall be for one year beginning March 1, 2009 and ending February 28, 2010, on a full-time basis.
2. The head of staff will supervise this position.
3. A ministry review will be conducted periodically by the Personnel Committee.

Specific terms for ministry:

1. Provide vision and leadership to the Seara Brazilian Ministry consistent with the overall mission of the church, serving the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.
2. Do general administrative work for this ministry including goal setting, prioritizing, activities planning and record keeping.
3. Attend regular meetings with leaders, staff, deacons, and session (as requested).
4. Work collegially and joyfully with the staff, leaders and congregation members, modeling for the larger community the ministry of reconciliation.
5. Promote racial/cultural/generational/ecumenical reconciliation and community empowerment as a visible sign of the inbreaking of God's reign.
6. Provide leadership training to the congregation in consultation with the head of staff.
7. Provide pastoral care, counseling and visitation to members of the Seara Brazilian Ministry as needed.
8. Support retreats, mission trips, field trips, and other special activities in accordance with the church calendar.
9. Initiate contact with individuals or groups who have recently arrived in the Twin Cities area, helping to determine their physical, emotional, financial and spiritual needs in consultation with the head of staff.
10. Assist visitors, when appropriate, to become active members of the church, and coordinate the deployment of the church's resources and connections to the new members.
11. Represent the Seara Brazilian Ministry in meetings, conferences, events, and partnerships outside the local church. Serve as an advocate for immigrants in the public square.
12. Preach occasionally at various services and venues as determined by the head of staff.

Appendix 3

Replies to Questions for Membership in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

The Reverend Neil Craigan

1. Please, tell us briefly about yourself, including the date of your ordination and the name of the ordaining presbytery.

I was ordained April 2, 2000 by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities. I was born and raised in Belfast, N. Ireland and moved to the United States in 1992 becoming a permanent resident in 1996. My wife, Jenny, and I have three daughters, Clare (11), Michaela (9) and Kendall (3). My interests include reading, of which I have a particular interest in the relationship between theology and culture. Over the last few years I have come to appreciate the health benefits of running on a regular basis and enjoy competing in races from 10k to the marathon. That being said, I still really enjoy a leisurely stroll around the golf course! One of my other interests is in the use of technology for ministry and I maintain a website at neilcraigan.com.

2. How have your understandings grown since ordination with respect to your theology and practice of ministry?

I think the simplest way to answer this is to say that my understanding has broadened tremendously. I entered ministry with a sense of there being one right answer to the question but have grown into a place that sees the world, not in black and white but rather in full Technicolor. I have gained a much greater appreciation that we all begin our spiritual journey from different and unique starting points and that the goal is not to get everyone to the same starting point but rather to help everyone reach the same end point, a relationship with God in Christ where together we work to build the kingdom of God. Possibly the biggest change has been from gaining an appreciation of the African concept of "ubuntu." It is a concept that speaks to community and wholeness, while there is no good English translation it may best be translated as "I am because we are."

3. Tell us something about your spiritual journey, how you've grown in your relationship with Christ and your life in the Spirit and how that relates to your call.

My spiritual journey began in earnest twenty plus years ago. I read the Scriptures and pray on a daily basis and through reading and conversation seek the wisdom of other pilgrims on the road. Several of the writers that have greatly influenced my thinking on spiritual issues are Miroslav Volf, Erwin McManus, Brian McLaren, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Leslie Newbigin .

How does this relate to my call? We have generations of clergy in our family lineage and when my spiritual journey began it was clear to me and to those around me that this was the direction my life should be taking.

4a. How do you view your theological, spiritual and leadership compatibility with the Congregation to which you are, or anticipate, being called to serve?

I resonate with the mission statement of the congregation, TO BE a home for all who seek, TO LIVE Christ's call, TO LOVE God and neighbor. A few years ago I wrote a D.Min. paper on the church as a place to belong, believe and become, that is the church is to be a place where all people can come and find relationships with others, find faith in Christ and experience the Christian hope of becoming new creations in Christ. The need for relationship, the need to belong, the need to be loved is so deeply ingrained within us that until we find a place where we are truly welcome and can share life with one another we will not experience what it means to be fully human.

The congregation at White Bear Lake also appears to share my passion for prayer, social justice and theological inquiry. It is important to me to be serving a congregation that doesn't want simple answers to complex questions, complex questions usually require complex answers and can be come at from a number of different angles. To do this requires a deep commitment to one another.

5. What, in your view, are some of the theological challenges facing the church and presbytery today and how would you respond to those challenges?

There appears to be a very divisive spirit in the church today, positions have been stated on numerous issues. This divide has usually been along, what have become called, conservative and liberal lines. This polarization is, I believe, the greatest challenge facing the church today. How do we best address this divide? I believe there needs to be a new way of being the body of Christ. It will require grace, repentance and renewal. Grace to allow us all to be more welcoming of people not like ourselves (from all ends of the theological spectrum), repentance for our contributions to the problems we now have and renewal to allow us to once again fix our eyes firmly on Jesus and help people grow in their relationship with him.

6. How would you like to serve/be served by the presbytery?

I have an interest in serving with the CPM. I served previously with this committee in the Twin Cities and would enjoy the opportunity serve there again. I would also have an interest in helping with new church development within the presbytery.

7. Can you continue to affirm the Constitutional Questions asked of you at ordination? (W-4.4003)

I can.