

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
Commissioned Lay Pastors Committee
Report to Presbytery
March 14, 2009

REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

1. **Lowell Busman** was approved by the Presbytery to serve a second year as the Commissioned Lay Pastor at Stadium Village Church in Minneapolis.
2. **Simon Tot Dhol**, with the Presbytery's approval at the March 14, 2009 meeting of the PTCA, will begin serving his second term as Commissioned Lay Pastor at Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights. The Committee on Ministry will bring his Commission to the Presbytery.
3. **Mauro Candido de Souza**, with the Presbytery's approval at its March 14, 2009 meeting, will begin serving as a Commissioned Lay Pastor at Church of All Nations in Columbia Heights. The Committee on Ministry will bring his Commission to the Presbytery. If the way is cleared Mr. Souza will be commissioned at the March 14, 2008 meeting.
4. The CLPC is grateful for the work of Elizabeth Raitt of the Presbytery Nominating Committee who worked diligently to find a wonderful mix of people to serve on this vital committee.

For Your Information

Candidates for Commissioned Lay Pastor are carefully trained through various training programs approved by the CLPC. They complete either written or oral examinations which are used for each candidate's final assessment. They are also asked to provide a Statement of Faith. Mr. Mauro Souza's Statement of Faith is attached here.

Attachment A

Statement of Faith – Mauro Souza

I was born in a Christian family and baptized in the faith of the Catholic Church in Brazil. When I was nine years old my father decided to look for a church where he could be more actively involved in the life of our community, and where my brothers, sister, and I could have a better Christian education.

In a rainy Wednesday night he told me to go with him to a church he had seen on his way to work. This church was an Independent Presbyterian Church of Jabaquara in Sao Paulo City, Brazil. The church was located about 5 miles from our house. In those days the roads in our neighborhood were not paved like today. It was a quite of challenge for him to walk with me in the muddy road to the church.

My father's determination was a revelation of true faith for me that day. That rainy Wednesday night was the first day of my journey with God the Father, Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When I was 12 years old my father was very well involved with the IPC in Jabaquara. He was elected deacon, and his passion was starting churches from scratch. He did this for the rest of his life, planting 3 churches in Sao Paulo city, and then dying of heart attack in 2001 on his way to his 4th new church.

Very early in my life my parents taught me about God and his Kingdom. I am eternally grateful to God for my parents, for their faithfulness and commitment to raise their children in a Christian family.

I believe in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in a sovereign God who is the creator of all, redeemer, and sustainer. I am created, forgiven, redeemed, sustained, and loved by God. All humans were created from dust in God's image and likeness.

I believe the Bible is the written word of God, the Scriptures, Old and New Testament, tell God's Story, witnessing to Jesus Christ and ordering Human Life. The biblical accounts carry the weight of God's authority for they are the revelation of God. I believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God's displeasure, except by His mercy.

I believe that salvation is by God alone as He is sovereignty chooses those He will save. I believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith. I believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.

I believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises. I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God's people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.

I believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself. I believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The sacrament of Baptism and Lord's Supper are practiced as a response to the Word being read and proclaimed. We are invited into a covenant relationship with God through baptism, which is the public declaration of our inclusion in God's redeeming grace and salvation. The Lord's Supper is a banquet that supports the Christian life. All who were admitted to the Church of Jesus Christ through Baptism need to be nourished by the Eucharist.

I believe God is "missio Dei"; Mission is the very nature of God. The missionary initiative comes from God alone.

I believe that God has called me to preach the gospel, lead worship, watch over people, and provide for their nurture and service. I believe that I have a strong spiritual foundation. God has called me to be his minister of reconciliation, to proclaim that in Christ, there is no Jew or Greek, male or female, poor or rich, black or white, young or old, recent or settled immigrants, Catholics or Protestant, for Christ has torn down all human barriers through the power of the cross.