

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Report to Presbytery
January 9, 2010

REPORTS

1. Final Assessment: Donald Hanna

The committee conducted the final assessment for Donald Hanna, who has completed all of the requirements of candidacy, and voted to certify Donald Hanna ready for examination for ordination, pending a call (See Recommendations to Presbytery). (G-14.0450 and G-14.0481).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Enroll as Inquirer: Tara Parrish

Tara Parrish, having fulfilled the constitutional requirements of G-14.0403 (active member of a particular church for at least six months) and the Presbytery's policy (endorsement by the session; interview with the committee of Presbytery to consider the application to be enrolled as an inquirer) is now presented to the Presbytery to be enrolled as inquirer: Tara Parrish, Kwanzaa Community Church. See Attachment A for her statement of what it means to be an inquirer.

The committee **recommends** that Tara Parrish be enrolled as an Inquirer by the Presbytery.

3. Enroll as Inquirer: Michael Gross

Michael Gross, having fulfilled the constitutional requirements of G-14.0403 (active member of a particular church for at least six months) and the Presbytery's policy (endorsement by the session; interview with the committee of Presbytery to consider the application to be enrolled as an inquirer) is now presented to the Presbytery to be enrolled as inquirer: Michael Gross, Aldrich Presbyterian Church. See Attachment B for his statement of what it means to be an inquirer.

The committee **recommends** that Michael Gross be enrolled as an Inquirer by the Presbytery.

4. Enroll as a Candidate: Lisa Johnson

Lisa Johnson, who is on the roll of Inquirers of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, having satisfactorily demonstrated adequate promise for ministry by presenting the statements specified in the Presbytery's policy (G-14.0402), met with the session of the Presbyterian Church of Le Sueur, and with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, is presented to the Presbytery to be examined "with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry," and to be received as a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. (See Attachment C)

The committee **recommends** that Lisa Johnson be enrolled as a candidate for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament and that the moderator ask her the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

5. Examination for Ordination: Donald Hanna

Donald Hanna, a candidate for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament under the care of this Presbytery, having satisfactorily completed the trials for ordination as specified in the Form of Government (G-14.0482) and in the presbytery's manual, is presented to the Presbytery to be examined "with respect to his Statement of Personal Faith," and to be found fit for ordination into the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. (See Attachment D) Donald Hanna, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The committee **recommends** to presbytery that be Donald Hanna found fit for ordination and that the moderator ask him the questions specified in the Presbytery's policy.

6. Ordination Administrative Commission: Jonathan Cornell

The committee **RECOMMENDS** to presbytery that the following arrangements be approved for the ordination of Jonathan Cornell:

Date: Sunday, January 10, 2010
Time: 4:00 pm
Place: Hope Presbyterian Church, Richfield

AND

that these persons be appointed as members of the Administrative Commission:

Ministers

Minister: David Lenz Hope Church

Minister: Kara Root Lake Nokomis
Presbyterian

Minister: Neil Craigan First Pres.
White Bear Lake

Elders

Elder: Lucy Mungai Church of All
Nations

Elder: Norm Scott Eden Prairie
Presbyterian

Elder: Kirsten Berry Hope Church

Corresponding Members

Rev. Les Dahlen, (grandfather) Retired ELCA minister

Rev. Amy Cornell, Assemblies of God

Rev. Tasha Genck Morton, St. Andrews Lutheran

Dave Kelsey, elder Wabash Presbyterian Church, Allendale, Illinois, Presbytery of
Southeastern Illinois.

AND

that the Moderator-elect Vincent Gin as designated by the Moderator, preside and propound the Constitutional questions,

AND

that upon ordination the name of The Reverend Jonathan Cornell be removed from the Roll of Candidates and be transferred to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois.

ATTACHMENT A

Statement of What It Means to be an Inquirer

Tara Parrish

I am ready to move from the “seeker” into the “inquirer” phase of the process, with a firm decision to move forward. I am committed to exploring the pursuit of the following:

- **Education for ministry:** I am currently enrolled at United Theological Seminary. I have discovered a talent and have a passion for the study of scripture and of pastoral care.
- **Spiritual development:** I believe I have experienced great spiritual development since joining Kwanzaa Community Church in 2005, personal Bible study and enrolling in UTS in 2006. I look forward to it being a lifelong journey and exercise in discipline.
- **Interpersonal relations:** I believe that building relationships is key to ministry and to life. I work hard to nurture relationships with those in my family and friendship circles, congregation and at seminary.
- **Personal growth:** Personal growth, development and gaining knowledge and wisdom lie at the core of who I am as a person and as a Christian. I always desire to be the best I can be in all of my endeavors.
- **Professional development:** I am an intern at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul this current school year. I am learning a great deal about the inner workings of a church and pastoral care from Rev. David Stewart. In addition, I am also taking on additional assignments from my home church, including teaching women’s Bible study.

ATTACHMENT B

Statement of What It Means to be an Inquirer

Michael Gross

Being an inquirer is a mutual process of discerning whether or not one is being called to ordained ministry in the PC (USA). It is a time in which I can learn about ministry in the PC (USA), reflect on any pray about this desire and discern if it is right for me to continue the process toward ordination. At the same time, this period of time allows my faith community, both with my session and the CPM, to discern my fitness for and dedication to vocational ministry. Should they and I discern there is truly a call, I will move on to become a candidate.

When I entered Princeton Seminary, I was planning on pursuing a Ph.D in Theology and therefore did not see a need to become ordained right away. During the three years of my seminary education, however, I came to realize that working in the church would be a better fit for me. By the time I was ready to consider being placed under care, I received a fellowship to study in Guatemala for a year. I decided it would make more sense to begin this process when I returned.

I got married last June. My wife Kimmy and I spent a lot of time in prayer about my decision to

start the process of ordination. I spoke with my boss/pastor, Matt Johnson, and he encouraged me in the direction of ordained ministry. My wife and I officially became members of Aldrich last October with the intention of my going under care as soon as possible.

ATTACHMENT C

Statement of Motivation

Lisa Johnson

I have grown up in the church. I have always been a part of the church, and for as long as I can remember, being involved in the church was important in my family. I cannot claim to have had any kind of radical conversion experience or even any kind of conversion experience at all. I have always believed in the teaching of the Presbyterian Church and the church universal. There have been ups and downs in my life, times of light and times of darkness in which I didn't feel much like a child of God, but I never doubted God's love for me or that God had a plan for my life. I once heard a description of the Christian life as an elevated one, not in stature but in experience. When you think of a lifeline, it has ups and downs in it – mountains and valleys. With Christ in my heart, God lifts me up through the power of the Holy Spirit, lifting my entire lifeline up a couple of notches so that my mountain peaks feel that much higher and my valleys don't feel nearly as low. That is how my faith experience has felt. It's not that being a Christian makes me happy all the time. It just makes the "highs" better and the "lows" not quite as bad. When I see all the pain and suffering that goes on in this world, I can do nothing but thank God for holding me up.

I've always maintained a strong connection with my home church, but when I haven't been able to be an active part of that congregation, I've found other churches in which to be temporarily active. I've taught and participated in Sunday schools, helped out with ecumenical youth after-school programs, sung in choirs, led contemporary singing, provided pulpit supply, and volunteered at a wide variety of fundraisers. I've also had the invaluable yet difficult experience of ministering as a chaplain, unable to actively share my faith but able to provide a ministry of presence which I believe can break down some walls more effectively than words ever could. This was an experience more of the church universal than of the church particular, and I have a feeling I'll be learning from it long after I've left the hospital for the last time. I said that God has a plan for each person's life, and I know in my heart that God's plan for my life involves ordained ministry. When I had my call experience in college, I felt it was unmistakable, but in talking with family and friends – those who had only known me for a few months and those who had known me for years – I knew it was undeniable. My soul felt pulled to answer God's call, and those whom I love affirmed that pull time and time again. Right now, I hope that my calling is to rural ministry because that is where my heart lies. However, I've learned that making my own plans is far less effective than counting on God to show me the way when the time is right. Maybe I'll end up in urban ministry. Maybe I'll end up in chaplaincy. Maybe I'll end up going back for my Ph.D. and teaching in a seminary someday. I don't know, but what greater comfort can I have than knowing that God does?

ATTACHMENT D

Donald Hanna Statement of Faith

1 I believe in One Triune God.

2 I believe in God, "I am who I will be," Yahweh: good, loving, merciful, just, eternal, infinite,
3 and the one in whom all creation lives, and moves, and has being. Simply by considering
4 the vastness of the universe, or the complexity of my own body, I am moved to awe,
5 wonder, and gratitude.

6 I believe in Jesus the Christ, fully God, fully human, who came proclaiming the Kingdom of
7 God, and demonstrating what life in the Kingdom looks like. In Jesus, God entered into a
8 broken world -- my world. In this world, I see how destructive greed, fear, and lust for
9 power can be. It is these things that brought Jesus to such a cruel end; an innocent man
10 crucified. But I believe Christ is risen from the grave. In the resurrection I see a vision of
11 the Kingdom of God; one in which death and the powers that diminish, destroy, and
12 degrade life (and I have seen these) do not have the final say, but where there is life
13 eternal. Because of all of this, Jesus is LORD of my life and my Savior; he is also my
14 teacher, guide, brother, and friend.

15 I believe in God the Spirit, who ignites in me the flames of desire to do God's will and who
16 sustains me in my day to day life. The Spirit strengthens me to resist the temptations
17 of this world, and those that come from within, guides me as I face the trials of the day,
18 and encourages me to strive for a world where there is reconciliation, liberation, and
19 peace.

20 I believe that the Bible is God's word to me. I understand the Bible to be a collection of
21 works written by people embedded in their own historical context reflecting on God's
22 presence in their midst. Yet at the same time, I find this word alive to me now, and that
23 God speaks to me in my reading, interacting with, and application of the Biblical witness
24 to my life.

25 I believe that Baptism is a sign of God's love for God's people and seal of this promise. In
26 Baptism, I entered into this promise, and became a part of the Body of Christ, a
27 community that has nurtured me, cared for me, and shown me love. I believe that the
28 Lord's Supper is a sign of God's hospitality. In it I, along with my brothers and sisters, are
29 nourished by a holy feast with Christ. This is a celebration of the life abundant that God
30 desires for me and all creation.

31 I believe that the church is the Body of Christ. This people, called by Christ, comes
32 together to worship God and to do Christ's work in the world. I trust that God's Spirit is
33 present in the PCUSA as it seeks to achieve these holy ends.

34 I believe that Christ calls the Church to mission; to bear its corporate witness and to

35 corporately serve God's world . The whole church is to proclaim with Christ the
36 Kingdom of God, and work for a world where there is good news for the poor, release
37 for captives, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed.