

**PRESBYTERY of GIDDINGS-LOVEJOY**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2010**  
**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

**For Action:**

The Committee on Preparation recommends that the presbytery approve an alternate exam process to be developed and implemented with regard to Candidate Jerry Chang, as allowed in G-14.0472.

**Background**

*The Committee on Preparation is working with this candidate to develop a format for ordination examinations that will allow him to demonstrate in his competence in the areas of Theology, Polity, Worship and Sacraments, and Exegesis. To that end, CPM has named a task group to develop the format and content of alternative exam and to identify those who will grade the exam, in consultation with the Office of Examination Services. The motion to set up an alternative examination process for Jerry follows his experience of taking the standard ordination examinations on two occasions. He has passed the Bible Content exam, but not the other four exams. The initiative to seek an alternative exam process is prompted by discussion with Rev. Tim Cargal in the Louisville office. This process is not initiated by Jerry's request, but by the committee's consideration of his situation and its counsel to Jerry.*

*Members of the committee and the Rev. Steve Ranney have reviewed Jerry's performance on the August exams in conversation with him. We believe that the difficulty is less one of readiness or inability to integrate than it is the challenge presented by English as a second language.*

*Those who have agreed to serve on this task group are Rev. Steve Ranney, Rev. Deb Krause, Rev. Barbara Willock, and Elder Mark Vogel (Woodlawn Chapel). All have experience with the writing or administration of ordination exams. Rev. Carol Keating, as Jerry's CPM liaison, will be available to the task group as an advocate for Jerry.*

*Based on our experience of Jerry Chang, the committee is confident of Jerry's gifts for ministry. The presbytery considered his application for candidacy at its meeting in February, 2009, and enrolled him as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament after examining him on the floor. He has completed his M. Div. work and graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in May of 2009. He is currently enrolled in a CPE program, as required by the presbytery for students under our care in preparation for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Jerry is also working part time as a Pastoral Intern at Woodlawn Chapel, under the supervision of Rev. Chris Keating. There he continues to develop practical skills for ministry and is broadening his experience of PC(USA) congregations. His work in this setting is guided by learning goals developed between him and his supervisor, goals approved by the CPM.*

*With the presbytery's approval (requires a 3/4 affirmative vote) the alternative exam process will be implemented. The presbytery will be advised when Jerry has completed the alternative examination process, and when he has met with the committee and has been certified as ready to seek a call.*

**ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:****Inquirer Enrolled**

On January 21, 2010, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry conducted an interview with Hannah Marders Boteler Nutt, a member of Second Presbyterian Church, who is recommended by her Session for enrollment as an Inquirer in preparation for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Hannah is a 2006 graduate of Hiram College, where she earned a baccalaureate degree as a history major. After graduation she worked successively with the Americorps VISTA program and ACORN. She is currently enrolled at McCormick Theological Seminary. Hannah was accompanied to the interview by the members of her session's Circle of Care: Helen Canada, Chuck Miller, and Marion Stevens. After consideration of the materials Hannah prepared to apply to the process and dialogue with her about her sense of call, the Committee on Preparation voted unanimously to accept her application, and acted on behalf of the presbytery to enroll Hannah Nutt as an Inquirer in the process of preparation effective January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**INFORMATION****Recommendation to Commission**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on January 21, 2010, with David Zweh, who has completed training toward commissioning as a Lay Pastor through the denomination's program of training for immigrant ministers and lay pastors conducted in Puerto Rico. The Committee reviewed the records of that training, as well as information from the session and pastor of Carondelet-Markham, where David has been an integral leader in the ministry with the Liberian community. The Committee interviewed David with respect to his theological perspectives, use of scripture in his ministry, his sense of call, and his experiences of the church in Africa and in this country.

The Committee concluded that David Zweh is well-prepared for ministry within this particular community, and voted to recommend him to the Committee on Ministry for consideration of commissioning to the multi-cultural ministry of Carondelet-Markham Presbyterian Church.

**Meetings for 2010**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry scheduled its meetings for 2010. All will be held at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church; all except for the Annual Consultation are scheduled at 4:00 on Thursday. These are the dates this year: **March 4, September 16, April 15, October 21, June 5 (annual consultation), December 9, July 15.**