

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

May 17, 2022

Lorna R. Blackford

Upon examination by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the committee finds that Lorna Renee Blackford has satisfactorily achieved the goals of the Inquirer phase of preparation and is now ready to be moved to Candidacy.

MOTION: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves to proceed with the examination of Inquirer Lorna Renee Blackford with respect to her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that Inquirer Lorna Renee Blackford be received as a candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament upon the successful completion of an examination by the assembly.

Background:

Lorna Renee Blackford was received as an Inquirer at the May 25, 2021 Presbytery Assembly and is a student at Dubuque Theological Seminary, projected to graduate in 2024.

Pertinent references from the Manual of Operations CPM handbook on moving from Inquiry to Candidacy:

II B 1. Admission to Candidacy an Inquirer becomes a Candidate by action of presbytery. At that time the Candidate formally agrees to accept the presbytery's supervision in her or his preparation for the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments. The process of the candidacy phase can be as follows:

- a. An Inquirer shall apply to the presbytery through the session of his or her church and the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to become a Candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments.
- b. The session shall confer with the Inquirer, review the evidence of the inquiry phase, and make recommendations to the presbytery through the Stated Clerk with respect to the Inquirer's application. The Stated Clerk shall communicate this information to the CPM moderator.
- c. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall confer with the Inquirer and review the evidence which indicates whether the Inquirer is ready to proceed to candidacy
- d. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall make a definite recommendation to the presbytery with respect to whether the Inquirer should be received as a Candidate. Presbytery shall act on every committee recommendation regarding application for candidacy.
- e The presbytery shall receive the report and recommendation of its committee and shall examine the Inquirer in person with respect to his or her Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry.
- f. If the examination is approved, the presbytery shall receive the Inquirer as a Candidate after the following manner. The moderator shall propose the following questions to the inquirer:
 - (1) Do you believe yourself to be called by God to the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments?
 - (2) Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry?
 - (3) Do you accept the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern your preparation for this ministry?
 - (4) Do you desire now to be received by this presbytery as a Candidate for the office of Minister of Word and Sacraments in the PCUSA?
- g. If these questions are answered in the affirmative, a brief charge shall be given, the Candidate's name shall be recorded on the presbytery's roll of Candidates, and the proceedings shall close with prayer.

Mackenzie M. Jager

Mackenzie Marie Jager, a member of the congregation has approached the session of the Clinton Presbyterian Church, Clinton, Illinois about becoming a Minister of the Word and Sacraments and has agreed with the session and with the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to explore the implications of this request. Understanding the time requirement for membership, the Committee on Preparation brings before the Presbytery on behalf of Mackenzie Marie Jager and the session of the Clinton Presbyterian Church a request for waiver of the membership time requirement as provided for in G-2.0610.

MOTION: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that the time requirement that an applicant shall be a member of the sponsoring congregation to be enrolled as inquirer be waived for Mackenzie Marie Jager.

Background and Rationale:

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is asking that the time requirement for membership in a sponsoring congregation be waived so that we may move that she be enrolled as an Inquirer under care of the presbytery today.

Presbytery of Great Rivers Bylaws, ARTICLE X- COMMITTEES

Section 3 Committee on Preparation for Ministry

a. Responsibilities. The Committee on Preparation for shall be responsible for responding to the goals and objectives and related matters which deal with enhancing and strengthening skills for the professional ministry and the performances of all duties required by the PCUSA Constitution (G3.0307).

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Handbook, version 2.1 p. 3

The presbytery, through the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), provides pastoral care, guidance, support and evaluation of Inquirers and Candidates.

Relevant Book of Order references:

G-2.0601 Nature and Purpose of Preparation

It is important that those who are to be ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy.

G-2.0602 Time Requirements

To be enrolled as an inquirer, the applicant shall be a member of the sponsoring congregation, shall have been active in the work and worship of that congregation for at least six months, and shall have received the endorsement of the session of the sponsoring congregation. The inquiry and candidacy phases shall continue for a period of no less than two years, including at least one year as a candidate.

G-2.0610 Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION on Mackenzie M. Jager:

- was a candidate for ordination in the Christian Reformed Church

- graduated from Western Theological Seminary with an M. Div
- has taken a full year of Greek and Hebrew
- desires to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- became a member of Clinton Presbyterian Church-Clinton on March 20, 2022

MOTION: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Mackenzie Marie Jager be enrolled as an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Background and rationale:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Handbook, version 2.1 p. 3

“The preparation for ministry process is one of **continuing development**. By providing a supportive community in which the Inquirer or Candidate assumes increasing responsibility for decisions made throughout the process, it introduces him or her to skills for self-development, goal-setting and self-evaluation. The individual is encouraged to develop these skills into conscious, disciplined planning for personal and professional growth which should continue throughout his or her ministry.”