

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of Great Rivers Assembly

April 29, 2025

The committee met on March 19, 2025. Our training this meeting was taken from the information in our current handbook on Roles and Responsibilities of Participants (p.10-11) and the Descriptions of Forms Used in the Preparation for Ministry Process (p.33) focusing on the forms used in applying to be enrolled as an inquirer. The committee received form 1 D from New Covenant Community Church, Bloomington, Illinois, and reviewed all forms 1 A-D for Jamie R. Kaiser, who was previously interviewed by this committee, and moved that she be recommended to the assembly for enrollment as an inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

The following is the list of days, dates, and times for our remaining regularly scheduled meetings in 2025:

- Wednesday, June 18th @ 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 16th @ 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 1st @ 10:00 a.m.

Committee Updates:

- ❖ There are two individuals who are CRE candidates in our care.
- ❖ There are three individuals working with our committee who are discerning their call as a Commissioned Ruling Elder; and three individuals who are discerning their call as Ministers of Word and Sacrament.
- ❖ There are several others who are also discerning the ministry path they will choose.

MOTION

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry moves that Jamie R. Kaiser be enrolled as an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Rationale:

From the Book of Order 2023/2025

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

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.

From the Presbytery of Great Rivers Preparation for Ministry Handbook

Adopted: August 24, 2024

A. Phase 1: Inquiry G-2.0603

The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as teaching elders to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the Inquirer's suitability for ordered ministry.

1. Admission to Inquiry

A member of a congregation is considered for enrollment as an Inquirer when they approach the session about the possibility of becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament and formally agrees with the session and with the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to explore the implications of this quest.

Background information for Jamie R. Kaiser:

Jamie has been a member of the New Covenant Community Church in Bloomington, Illinois, since February 8, 2022. She is currently attending the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and works at 2nd Bloomington Presbyterian Church as their Family Ministry Director.

Here is more information in her own words:

Hi, I'm Jamie Kaiser.

I'm excited to begin the journey toward ordination by officially becoming an Inquirer. For the past three years, I've been pursuing my Master of Divinity at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and look forward to graduating in 2026.

Currently, I serve as the Family Ministry Director at Second Presbyterian Church, where I'm beginning my fifth year. I find deep joy in walking alongside kids and their families as they grow in faith, and I'm passionate about nurturing the next generation of disciples.

I'm looking forward to learning more about what ordination entails and means, and I'm grateful to have been led to the PC(USA). I'm eager to continue learning, growing, and discerning where God is calling me to serve following ordination. This next step is one I take with both humility and hope.



Jamie and her husband Jason Kaiser Christmas 2024.