

Report to the Presbytery of Transylvania
June 7, 2008
Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry informs the Presbytery of Transylvania that we have conducted annual reviews or met with the following individuals this year:

Pete Jones, Candidate - Maxwell St. Presbyterian, Lexington
Emily Boyce, Inquirer - First Presbyterian, Mt. Sterling
Hannah Norris, Incoming Inquirer - Second Presbyterian, Lexington
Sarah Dill, Incoming Inquirer - Maxwell St. Presbyterian, Lexington
Dan Phelps, Candidate - Wilmore Presbyterian, Wilmore
Barrett Milner, Candidate - First Presbyterian, Lexington
Greg Kubar, Candidate - Maxwell St. Presbyterian, Lexington
Wanda Olive, Inquirer - Maxwell St. Presbyterian, Lexington

2. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Transylvania approve the enrollment of Hannah Norris as an Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Hannah is a member of Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

3. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Transylvania approve the enrollment of Sarah Dill as an Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Sarah is a member of Maxwell St. Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

4. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Transylvania sustain the ordination examination of Lynne Hardy and that she be approved for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Lynne has received a call as Pastor to the First Presbyterian Church in Harlan, KY, and comes to us from the Northern New England Presbytery.

5. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Transylvania sustain the ordination examination of John Manon and that he be approved for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). John has received a call as Pastor to the Corbin Presbyterian Church in Corbin, KY, and comes to us from the Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

Lynne Hardy
May 2008
Spiritual Life History

I am the third of five children, the first daughter, sister to three boys and one girl. I was born to lower middle class folks who had settled down after high school to make their life in Stillwater, a small town outside of Saratoga Springs, NY. My father left school at sixteen to work on the railroad; at eighteen joined the navy; and at twenty three he married my mother who was fresh out of high school. My mom was raised protestant, attending Schoonmaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in the center of the village of Stillwater. My father was a lapsed catholic who may have had a relationship with God, but he never really shared it with us. My siblings and I always said our parents were polar opposites. Her favorite hymn was How Great Thou Art. His favorite was Why Me Lord? Even better, my father worked for the church as it's sexton for 10 years when I was growing up and for the last 10 years of his life. Dad absolutely loved the worship space and cared for it like it was his home. He kept it fit for a king.

My mom made sure we went to church and hence I can honestly say I am a cradle Presbyterian. Somewhere in the church records is a paper cradle with my name on it. I was baptized at 3 with my older and younger brother. We attended Sunday School every week without fail except if the snow was too heavy. We did not miss for sports activity; actually no event excused us from church. I joined the church when I was 14. I became an ordained elder when I turned 18. I served on the session of the church for a total of 18 years between 1974 and 2001. I also served on the Women's Association as a president and member. I also taught Sunday School from 1991 through 2001.

I was married in my church and had both my babies baptized there. My son eventually was confirmed in the same church. My daughters choose not to be confirmed. When my marriage ended, the church provided me solace, safety, compassion and physical presence. Other times in my life my church has been there to be a family of comfort. This church family was the powerful body of Christ when we buried my grandparents and parents.

My spiritual history is grounded in my church and the practices I learned there. I think I believed in God from as far back as I can remember. I don't recall any exact images of God in my memory. Perhaps I once thought of God as a man in the sky. I think my biggest issue was unanswered prayer. At age 10 or 11, I recall praying for a prince to come and carry me away to another world far from my home and of course it did not happen. When I was 12 fervent prayer became a way of life for us as a family. My mother had been diagnosed with an aneurysm in her brain. We prayed every morning and every night that she would not die. We prayed, we begged in our prayers that our life could and would go back to normal. She didn't die, but life was no longer normal. Here was my first experience with answered prayer but it was not perfect and God was supposed to be perfect in all things. I was angry at first but there was too much changed in my world and no one had time to answer me. I prayed just as hard when I was fifteen that my father would not leave his family. This prayer was unanswered. He left and again life was no longer normal, as in the normal of life after my mother's illness.

I did not leave church because of the way prayers seemed to be answered, instead I turned to my youth group and my pastor for distraction. Somehow the years leading up to graduation in 1974 went quickly. My chosen profession, nursing, then enveloped me and I continued involved in church work. I do remember long talks with friends about God and Spirit and Jesus. I questioned the reality of resurrection and struggled with a man dying on a cross. I wondered how God could hear all the prayers spoken in the world. I worried that Jesus would come back and I would not be chosen to go with him.

I experienced worship in many churches in my young adult life. I sat in on Assemblies of God and Catholic ceremonies. I tried out the Episcopal Church and the local Baptist worship service and I went to the Harvest Church. One visit was usually enough to steer me back to my home Presbyterian church and the faith I understood. No worship could replace that worship.

My life has had its share of struggles. Some of them have been painful enough to require assistance to walk through them. My faith and spirit lead me to seek God in prayer. Prayer led me to ask for help and in the asking I learned about community in a way I had not completely understood.

My 'call' became a serious concern in my mid forties, although it may have been well before and I was not in a place internally where I could hear it. It began with hearing my name being called, somewhere just over my right shoulder. The voice sounded somewhat like my dad's voice, but was softer, richer and yet filled with love and concern. It is a difficult thing to describe if one cannot hear it.

It came when my mother began her journey into her dying process. It came after I had recovered my balance from a series of losses and an experience with depression. What I heard was my name being called. What I eventually did after many months was to finally say 'what'. And when I did, I entered into a deeper, more purposeful relationship with a very real and present God in my life. I listened, I worked with my pastor and my session and a mentor and counselor to discern the whole of the call. I explored what a call would mean for my life. My daughter was still in school, my son was not yet established. My parents were dealing with life changing illnesses and I had finally found the job of my dreams. For these reasons not answering "Yes", was my first response. I struggled with the call and with the whole of the possibility. I struggled with my ego. I struggled with the realness of seminary, long years of study, debt, distance, and my own fear of being alone in a strange place doing something different. As time passed, Kassie graduated from high school and was accepted to the college of her choice. My parent's health deteriorated and within a very short time of 2 years, they both passed away. My son became established and I had no further excuses for delaying.

Bangor Theological Seminary became the place my call brought me, and the place where I began the next phase of this call to ministry. I was still struggling with God of my youth and young adult years. God rarely answered my prayers as I wanted, if at all. I considered the possibility that I was mentally ill as a result of the multiple losses in my work, my experience with depression and the stress of my life. I had never entertained ministry as a possible career for me. I was fairly certain that God would not want me for anything. I reasoned that if he was calling me then he would have been 'nicer' to me in my younger years, protected me more from some of the pain and 'abuse' of my childhood and teen years. I was certain I had no useful gifts. I couldn't sing. I couldn't act. I didn't feel like I had a 'presence' capable of getting others attention or getting my or anyone's message across to any group of people. Even as I entered seminary I was still certain I had not much to offer to anyone anywhere. I couldn't even pray

well enough to get God's attention, much less to get the answers desired. Who was I to be in seminary? But there I was, crossing a bridge into a different world.

Seminary provided knowledge about the "Story" I feel called to tell. Seminary also provided tools, places to practice, mentors, guides and evaluations to help me gain what I needed for the most part to move onto the next path of this journey. I have learned to tell the story as I understand it in such a way as to be helpful to others. And there I learned as I was called to do just that. I discovered some gifts that I could integrate from my career of nursing into a ministry. I learned I could hold someone's attention and craft the "Word" and tell the story.

I also learned about the work of faith, grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit. None of them can answer prayer as I wish. And they can't keep me from making lousy choices and causing myself pain. They don't save people I love from harm. They don't make me glow in the dark. However they do seem to provide me with energy when I think I cannot go forward. They do remind me where I have been and light up the road to where I am going. And they do help me to see the overgrowth that prevents me from being open to the work of God in my life.

During seminary I envisioned a current of conversation just out of my earshot, going on and on about God and Christ and Spirit and Faith. I wanted to be in that conversation. I wanted to listen to the voices and understand the words and in some small way contribute. I feel I am now invited to be part of the conversation that I envisioned and I feel encouraged to explore faith and spirituality and share that experience with others where ever God may lead me.

Statement of My Faith and Belief- Lynne Hardy, May 2008

I believe God is the sovereign power and purpose for the universe. God creates, sustains, preserves and guides all things in the universe and all things created by God are good. God is made visible to us in the beauty, wonder and power of nature.

I believe God is trinitarian from before time, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and is revealed to us in scripture. The unique, intimate and corporate relationship of the trinitarian God is the perfected role model for human relationships.

I believe humanity is created in the image of God. We are created for relationship with God. We are created to live in community with one another. As Christians we are the image and bearer of God for our cultures and communities and as Christians in community we share our gifts and our faith in worship and life. I understand that all humanity is sinful, not as an intention of God, but as result of free will, a gift from God. As sinners we fall short of the glory of God, and are in need of reconciliation by salvation.

I believe that Jesus is the wholly human and divine son of God, is our only avenue of and for salvation. Through his life, sacrificial death and resurrection Jesus is the provider of salvation by grace through faith, giver of both forgiveness that surpasses our understanding and the assurance of a new personal and corporate life. I believe Jesus was and is: present with God before all things were created; for whom all things were created; the Christ who is promised of God from before time began. I believe Jesus is our avenue for prayer. Scripture records that Jesus experienced the trials, temptations, terror, fear, failures and tribulations of humanity as well as the human feelings of pain, despair, rejection, anger, grief, joy, and love. Jesus, though free of sin, atones for our sinfulness by his sacrificial death and saves us from everlasting death, reconciling us to right relationship with God and each other.

I believe the Holy Spirit is with God and Christ at creation in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is given of God through Christ to the world and is the power that calls to the gift of faith in all humanity. I believe the Holy Spirit works in and through our faith to encourage and call us to love justice, to be mercy driven and to live humbly before our God. The presence of the Holy Spirit enables us to love God with all we are and love our neighbors as ourselves.

I believe our faith and the church catholic and universal are nourished by the action of the two sacraments, baptism and communion. They are visible signs of the work of God for the people of God. The Holy Spirit is present in the action of baptism that once and for all time seals us to God through Christ forever. The Holy Spirit is the active presence of the Trinity in the community experience of the sharing of the sacrament of communion. This opens us to remember all that Christ sacrificed for us to save us from our sinful state and reconcile us to God and each other. I believe that as we eat and drink we also celebrate the amazing love of God in Christ for humanity, who calls to us without ceasing, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to commit ourselves in accordance with God's will for us.

As proclaimed Christians we are called to live as Christ lived, to rely on God through the power of the Holy Spirit to meet our needs while we work in this world to open eyes, ears, hearts, minds and souls to the saving grace God has for all humanity. I understand the role of a loving Christian is to practice mercy and equality while calling on others to also live justly and worshipfully in sight of the Lord.

John Manon
Faith Journey

I was born in Gypsum, Kansas into a Presbyterian family that taught me to love, praise and serve God in all areas of my life. I have very vivid memories of growing up in a Christian home. My parents put a high priority on regular church attendance. I was also taught the importance of serving others out of Christian love. My father and I would regularly take tractor loads of firewood to our neighbors each fall. I now fully understand and have great admiration for what I was taught.

In the summer prior to my high school years, my family and I moved to Ohio to take care of my maternal grandparents. Our family attended First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, Ohio. It was at this time that I met the first pastor that had a personal impact in my life, the Rev. Edward Auchard. As he and I have talked about many times, this was a time that I began to experience God in my life. I became aware of God's activity in the world and could sense God's presence in areas of my life that I never knew before.

Upon graduation from high school, I attended Bowling Green State University. This was a time, for me, to experience life and all it has to offer, both good and not so good. I did however keep my strong foundation of faith. I constantly found myself longing to return to fellowship with others in the faith. I now recognize with assurance that God was working through my life even when I was not as willing to be disciplined as I had been in the past.

After graduation from college, I moved to Tennessee. Being completely on my own was a time for me to develop into the person I was meant to be. I returned to the church whole heartedly and longed to serve the church in any capacity I could. I attended worship in churches of many denominations. Through those experiences, I found with great assurance that being Presbyterian was, in fact, where I found my greatest joy and feeling of being at home. It was also at this time that I met my wife and began a new life in marriage.

My wife and I moved to Banner Elk, NC as I took a job at Lees-McRae College. We joined Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church. It was at this point that I first began to perceive God's calling in my life to the ministry. I began to experience God vividly and powerfully in all areas of my life. My prayer life was consumed with prompts to serve God completely. As this grew more intense, I began to share this with a mentor in my life, Rev. O'dell Smith. He and I had weekly conversations and I credit him as the single person that guided me into the ministry.

After several years, my family (now with two kids) and I moved to Fort Wayne, IN as a result of a job change. My family and I joined Trinity Presbyterian Church. I am blessed in that God led me to that congregation. Rev. Kevin Boyd and the entire congregation have been very supportive and a great source of strength and guidance through my seminary experience.

I feel that my call to the ministry has been confirmed in several ways. First of all, I have a deep conviction to proclaim God's Word. When doing so, I have an absolute sense of fullness, completely whole and at one with God. My call is also confirmed by other people. I have had a good number of people confirm that I am doing what I am called to do. Many of these people have a great deal of experience with me and intimately know who I am. With such diverse individuals identifying this calling, I feel a strong confirmation. Finally, I have had several professors at seminary speak to me personally about following God's lead. They have affirmed to me and others that I demonstrate a deep passion and commitment to God and the office of ministry. All this combined has lead me to believe that I am faithful and true to what God commands of me at this point in my life.

All in all, I am truly humbled and awed to be called by God to serve in the ministry. I have fully accepted this calling and am focused on working to the best of my ability to serve the PC (USA), and the God of all creation.

John A. Manon
Statement of Faith

I believe in the one holy, unchanging, all-loving, and triune God, who is all knowing. God alone is sovereign and all creation is subject to his divine will. I understand God to be the Creator of the entire universe through his own divine power and that creation was originally deemed good. God eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit entwined in love.

I believe Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh. He was like us in all ways except for one, namely, being free from sin. Jesus is the Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, both fully divine and fully human. He was sent by the Father so that through his life, death on the cross, and resurrection, we might have eternal life assuring us of our salvation.

I believe that the Holy Spirit dwells within all believers and empowers those same believers to use the gifts that God has given them to glorify the Lord, working for justice and reconciliation in the world. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts so that all believers may come to know and discern God's will through His Word.

I believe that the Bible is the revealed word of God and that it was divinely inspired. Scripture, in its entirety, is a fully sufficient, though not a completely exhaustive revelation of truth, for the salvation of humankind. It stands alone as the foundation of all church doctrine.

I believe there is one holy, universal, and apostolic church founded by Christ and composed of true believers gathering around the promises of God. It is a community of redemption united by the Holy Spirit in the blood shed by Christ at Calvary. It is both universal and local. The church is holy and justified by Christ as its head, yet it is also sinful. As humans make up the church, all demonstrate sinful weaknesses which dishonor Christ. Even so, those sins have been justified by Christ. The church universal is vast and diverse while maintaining a certain unity. Its unity is in one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

I believe there are only two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through Jesus Christ and the shedding of his blood on the cross, a total and complete sacrifice was made on behalf of all people. Therefore, Christians are united and renewed with the saving sacrifice of Christ through these sacraments.

Baptism represents a sign and seal of God's saving grace. As a sign, baptism symbolizes the regeneration of life although it is not a means of salvation. In the water of baptism, through the Holy Spirit, one becomes dead to one's former self and transformed into a new life in Christ. Baptism then is an outward symbol of spiritual identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Christ also instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This sacrament is an entering into fellowship and unity with Christ. It functions to nourish and support those whom Christ has already brought into the family of the church. Christians should receive the Lord's Supper as a remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection as they look forward to the coming kingdom of God.