

Report to the Presbytery of Transylvania
June 9, 2007

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- 1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Transylvania approve the enrollment of Monica Tillie as an Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Monica is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

- 2. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry informs the Presbytery that the Committee has met with or conducted annual consultations with the following inquirers and candidates this spring:

March
Chad Rhodes
Monica Tillie

May
Emily Boyce
Greg Kubar
Hannah McIntyre
Barrett Milner
Wanda Olive
Dan Phelps

- 3. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Transylvania enroll Amy Dame as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Amy is a member of Beaumont Presbyterian Church.

My name is Monica Joleen Tillie. I was born and raised in Pike County, Ky, in a family that put great emphasis on faith in God and education. I grew up in church; a few different ones over my 17 years at home. My grandmother was Old-Regular Baptist, but we generally attended one of two Free-Will Baptist churches. My grandmother had an enormous influence on my life and helped to sculpt my character and my faith.

I attended EKV for my undergraduate and master degrees. I have a BS in psychology and a MA in counseling. I became a licensed professional counselor in 2002. I have worked at a spouse abuse center, a homeless program, a residential treatment program for recovering drug-abusing women, a family preservation program and finally at my church for the past 4 ½ years. The theme that makes all these different jobs come together is helping people. I have a strong sense that helping people is my purpose in this life, but how that sense is to work out in my life is a mystery that I try to discern constantly.

One could say my road to the Presbyterian Church has been one full of coincidence, but looking back I can see God's plan for my life. My husband has always been Presbyterian. Soon after we were married, we began attending church. In Richmond, in '95 the First Baptist and First Presbyterian churches were located next to each other. Therefore we parked in the middle and I went to the Baptist church and Scott to the Presbyterian. Then there is the second coincidence; the Presbyterian Church started having church at 10 for the summer. I was working at Papa Johns and had to be at work at 12, so I started going with Scott to the Presbyterian Church so I could get to work on time. A few years later we joined, and I started my professional career. In the summer of 2002, Rev. Bill Bailey invited me to work for the church to expand their local mission work and direct the Christian Education program. I agreed and have been here ever since.

I have thought about going to seminary during my time here, but finally Scott and I were ready to have a family. Once our son was born, I felt the time was right to go to seminary. So I took every appropriate step, meeting with the chair of the CPM, and enrolling in classes. Then, much to our surprise, we found out we were pregnant again. I still decided to start school in the fall of 2005 and finished the semester only weeks before my daughter was born. I then sat out a semester, but started back in the fall taking one class and then two in the spring of '07. I light-heartily say I am on the 'snail's-pace plan' for ordination. It will be a long time for me because I feel that God is calling me to three duties; to be a mother to the two angels He has entrusted to me, to do my work in the Church and to be a student and become an ordained minister.

I have been married for 12 years and have two wonderful children, Xavier, who is now 2 ½ and Olivia who is now 16 months old. I have had many challenges in my life, including two life-threatening diseases before I was 25. Even though I have had many difficulties along the way, I feel that I have learned very important lessons. My hope is that my life-experiences, my faith and my education can work together to minister to those in need, be it physical, emotional or spiritual needs.