

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY  
Report to Transylvania Presbytery  
September 8, 2009

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry makes the following report to presbytery:

1. Griffin Phillips has been received by the committee as an Inquirer as of July 23, 2009. She is endorsed by the Session of Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington.
2. The Committee reminds all churches that when there is a service of ordination and/or installation of a pastor, an offering should be received and sent to the presbytery office for the support of our Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry.
3. Barrett Milner, one of our Transylvania Presbytery candidates, is being called to serve as Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington. Barrett will be examined for ordination at today's (Sept. 8) meeting of presbytery. Barrett's Autobiographical and Faith Statements are included in the presbytery packet. (see COM report for proposed terms of call.)

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry makes the following **recommendation** to the Presbytery of Transylvania Presbytery:

**Be it resolved:**

**it is the policy of Transylvania Presbytery that prior to being certified as ready to receive a call all candidates under the care of Transylvania complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education through a certified institution, a psychological evaluation through an agency approved by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and a unit of supervised field education outside the environs of the candidate's home congregation.**

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas K. Farmer, Ch.  
Committee on Preparation for Ministry

*Biographical Statement – Barrett C. Milner*

Commonly, we, as a community of believers and a people of faith, all have undergone and will continue to develop as our God shapes not only our personal faith, but too, the minutiae of our individual existence. We are a people shaped by the unique experiences of our particular reality. Moreover, we are fashioned by the persons we encounter and the relationships that we foster; by the career decisions that we opt and the experiences with which we identify; by the recognition of our own unique spiritual gifts and our ability to find the courage to utilize them to better the world in which we live; and by our understanding and detection of the way in which God has found a permanent dwelling within our hearts and calls us each to individual service and ministry to the world. It is in this spirit that I wish to briefly address and reflect upon my own spiritual journey and walk of faith. It is a journey that has revealed to me moments of incredible clarity and bliss, others of utter confusion and fear, and one that I may ultimately call my own: unique, personally inspiring, difficult, ongoing, yet altogether beautiful and enlightening.

I was born May 23, 1979 in Lexington, KY and was raised in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). My family regularly both attended and participated in the activities of First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, KY, and it is at First where I am presently a member and with whose session that I have humbly come under care as I seek ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I was fortunate to have matured experiencing God's astonishing love during my participation in the life of the church and as shown to me by my family. I regularly would attend Sunday school and came to cherish my experiences in youth group, at Montreat, on mission trips, and at Camp Burnamwood and now acknowledge their significance in establishing the foundations of my life of faith. Both at home and at church, I was taught to love others as I was loved, to respect and celebrate diversity, and to live out my faith in service to others: a faith cultivated and nurtured by an adoring church family, which ultimately would help elucidate and affirm my call and vocation. Moreover, it is precisely this foundation of faith and witness to love and forgiveness that I pray I may impart to my beloved Carrie and Cole, following the example I have received from so many throughout the years, undeniably by God's grace alone.

It was not, however, until the summer of 1999 that I would begin a process of discernment and reflection that would eventually develop into a call to full-time Christian ministry. I returned to Camp Burnamwood as a member of the permanent summer staff and quickly recognized the essence and profound joy that accompanied the participation of a life wholly committed and consumed by the honor and worship of God within a supportive communal setting. I came to recognize the way in which the Holy Spirit penetrates the hearts and minds of the willing, and I saw within myself the opportunity to make a change.

It was by that experience that I would come to understand my own place in Christian ministry, and it was the place where I was able to begin to explore further the beginnings of my call. I would return to Burnamwood the following summer and would later work with the youth at Second Presbyterian Church (Lexington) as an Intern, as the director of the Maxwell Street Urban Work Camp mission program for two summers, as the Youth Director at First Presbyterian Church (Lexington), as the Campus Ministry

Coordinator at Transylvania University (Lexington), as the Acting Co-Director of Burnamwood Camp and Conference Center (Transylvania Presbytery), and currently as Director of Youth Ministry at Second Presbyterian Church (Lexington). It has been through the collection of these experiences that I have come to know more fully the importance and necessity for the development of our Christian communities through ministry and service to others. Likewise, these experiences within the church and ministry have helped me to fully comprehend and experience first-hand the way in which God will call us by name and challenge each of us to utilize our unique gifts and talents to better the lives of those who go the journey with us. With these experiences, I have witnessed both the love and power of true Christian community and of faithful stewardship, friendship, and forgiveness, and I have come to recognize the essence of our Presbyterian Church.

Christ calls us each to serve. We are called in a myriad of different ways and to a great many venues. While we are not all called to full-time ministry within the church, it has been a collection of my own experiences within the Presbyterian Church, as a child with questions, as a teenager with a hunger, and as a young man with a faith and conviction, that I have come to recognize God's calling upon my life.

*Statement of Faith – Barrett C. Milner*

I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the one holy and eternal Triune, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all heaven and earth. I believe that it is by the gift of God's eternal grace and, by no achievement of our own, that God has chosen to enter into covenant community with the whole of humankind, including all generations of the past, present, and future. I believe that through the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, the whole of God's beloved creation is proffered the opportunity to witness God face-to-face and to experience God's redemptive presence and all-loving reality.

As God has chosen to remain in covenant community with humankind, I believe that God has challenged all people to live together in community, loving both God and neighbor. I believe that we, as God's beloved children, created, redeemed, and sustained by God's undying grace, have been called to be a people of faith, hope, and love, bound to one another as the Body of Christ. Furthermore, as we seek to heed God's call upon our lives, I believe we may look to the fullness of Christ's humanity, the example by which to live, pray, and serve God and our neighbor. Moreover, it is in Christ's divinity that we see God's awe-inspiring presence and perceive the magnificence of God's ceaseless and overwhelming love for creation. We see this love wholly embodied in the salvation that is provided to us in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit to be the eternal bond, an immutable presence within all of creation, and the compelling force by which we are connected as one body of believers, devoted to Christ and to the worship and service of our God and to the care of our neighbor.

I believe that all people, created in God's holy and mystifying image, are called to live with one another in covenant relationship, affinity, and love, as is made known by the affection and mutuality fully embodied within our God as Holy Trinity. Moreover, I believe that we are called to create community, provide hospitality, and promote peace, justice, and tolerance for all of God's beloved children.

I believe in the power and revelation of Holy Scripture that is the rule of our faith and lives as Christians. I believe that we are forever called to glorify God through worship, fellowship, and service to all of God's children, following the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ, sharing the good news with all of the world and its people. I believe that we are to celebrate the gifts of God's grace by our administration of and participation in the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, as they are the outward signs of God's gift of covenant grace. I believe that all things under heaven, all life, and all faith are the gifts of God, for the people of God. I believe that it is both our call and our responsibility to be faithful stewards and to share these gifts of grace with all people, continually seeking God's revelation and guidance from Holy Scripture, as we live in covenant community with one another, forever seeking to answer God's call.