

**Report to the Presbytery of Transylvania**  
**September 11, 2007**  
**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports to the Presbytery that it met with six Inquirer/Candidates in May for their annual reviews at our first spring retreat at Cliffview Retreat Center in Danville. The Committee reports that we will be hosting our fall retreat and annual reviews on October 14 and 15 at Cliffview. This is a new format developed to achieve greater success in the review and ‘under care’ process.
  
2. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery sustain the ordination examination of Allen Brimer and that he be approved for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Allen has received a call as pastor to the First Presbyterian Church in Somerset, KY, and comes to us from the Holston Presbytery.

**Allen Brimer**  
**Brief Statement of Faith**

As a Christian in the Reformed Tradition, I believe in a triune God whose nature is revealed in three distinct persons:

I believe in God, the Creator, whose image and nature are revealed in the complexity and harmony of the created world and universe. I believe that the ever-evolving creation is a reflection of God's nature and that God's intended purpose for humanity is and will be fulfilled in the process of God's creation and re-creation of us in God's own image through Christ.

I believe in God, the Redeemer, who, as the Christ, is made most evident to us in the life of Jesus of Nazareth whose Betrayal, Death and Resurrection reunites us with God. I believe that the Redeemer is the Word of God, who as the Way, the Truth, and the Life serves as the example and teacher of who we are called to be as the children of God.

I believe in God, the Sustainer, whose ever-presence nurtures our spiritual journeys by attending to our prayers, empowering us to be Christ's representatives, and luring us to fulfill our divinely designed roles for the sake of God's kingdom.

I believe that in spite of our hopes and best efforts we are unable to fulfill God's expectations of us. I believe that God almighty so loved us and the creation that by grace God bridged the gap between us through the miracle and mystery of the resurrection of Jesus Christ so that through faith we would remain united with the Creator in spite of our inability to uphold our end of God's covenant.

I believe that we are called as people of faith to participate in a community of faith where we are able to worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer and witness to the acts of God in our lives. As members of faith communities, we are called to give generously of ourselves in every way for the promotion of the Gospel as revealed to us through scripture and our personal encounters with the Divine. As such, we both form and are formed by our brothers and sisters in Christ. Further, our acts of generosity should uphold the scriptural values of justice, kindness, and humility.

Finally, I believe that a day will come when all the colors will bleed into one, and God's plan for creation will be fully realized. It will be a day when fear and death no longer have power; a day when love and joy will reign, and the children of God will live together in peace in the presence and full knowledge of the Holy.



privilege of being exposed to the deep spirituality of Franciscan nuns. While at the farm, I also met the woman to whom I am now married and felt the call to go to seminary. At the end of my time on the farm with the Sisters, I enrolled as a seminary student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, entered into care with Holston Presbytery as an Inquirer, and got married.

As a student, I felt called to serve in the mission field and wrestled deeply with the question of ordination. I did not feel ready to be ordained and had extensive conversations with my CPM on this issue. Fortunately, I had a nurturing CPM that both affirmed me and challenged me. Also during seminary, I completed the CPE Level 1 internship at Rush Hospital in Chicago which exposed me to the realities of death and dying as well as to the idea that we could observe the redeeming story of Christ in the stories and lives of those I served! Also during seminary, my wife gave birth to our first child, Benjamin, who continues to be a daily miracle!

After graduation from seminary, we moved to Bloomington, IN for my wife to pursue her graduate degree, which she has since completed. While in Bloomington, I have served as the Coordinator for Youth and Service Ministries at First United Methodist Church. FUMC is a congregation of 1500 and has been perhaps the best thing that could have happened for my understanding of myself as pastor. I have had the opportunity to lead committees, to preach and lead worship on a monthly basis in a variety of worship settings, to be responsible for the programming in two areas of a large congregation, etc. I have also had good mentors who have wisely counseled me in these years.

While at FUMC, I have sought to complete my ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) while serving a United Methodist congregation. However, the United Methodists and the Presbyterians did not work well together to agree upon terms of call that would accommodate my ordination. While this was a painful experience for me, it has served to "kick me out of the nest" and into a search for a calling as a pastor in the PC(USA). That search has taken approximately eleven months and began with a search for an Associate Pastor position. After a number of interviews, it became apparent that an Associate position was not that to which God was calling me. Therefore, I began to discern a call to serve as a solo pastor.

When this idea first began to settle into me, I felt a swell of anxiety emerge with the new understanding of what it would mean to be the only pastor on staff: preaching every week; emergency calls; weddings; funerals; etc. After extensive prayer, these fears have subsided though I am aware of the great responsibility to which I am being called to undertake. I look forward to my new call as Solo Pastor at First Presbyterian Church Somerset with great joy and anticipation!