

Committee on Ministers and Congregations
Report to New Castle Presbytery
Saturday, November 14, 2020

*COMC with CPMM brings Certified Ready to Receive a Call Candidate Debra Trevino for Ordination Examination.

COMC on October 8 validated the specialized ministry of Debra Trevino as Parish Associate with St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and if the way be clear, received Ms. Trevino as a Member of New Castle Presbytery.

In addition, COMC requested the Presbytery to ordain Debra Trevino as Minister of Word and Sacrament and that the Moderator appoint an Administrative Commission to ordain Ms. Trevino.

COMC on October 8 approved, if the way be clear, the temporary pastor/Parish Associate Contract between Debra Trevino and the Session of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, one year contract beginning December 1, 2020.

*COMC with CPMM brings Certified Ready to Receive a Call Candidate Matt Waters for Ordination Examination.

COMC on October 8 validated the specialized ministry of Matt Waters as chaplain resident for Christiana Care and, if the way be clear, received Mr. Waters as a Member of New Castle Presbytery.

In addition, COMC requested the Presbytery to ordain Matt Waters as Minister of Word and Sacrament and that the Moderator appoint an Administrative Commission to ordain Mr. Waters.

*Introduction and Welcome of Samuel Massey, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Interim Pastor of the First and Central congregation. COMC on August 25 approved Dr. Massey as a member of New Castle Presbytery, transferring from East Iowa Presbytery, and as Interim Pastor of the First and Central congregation, including Terms of Remuneration. Effective Date of Employment is November 15, 2020, one year contract.

*Introduction and Welcome of Shannon Smythe, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Pastor of the Westminster congregation in Rehoboth. COMC on July 31, 2020 approved Dr. Smythe as a member of New Castle Presbytery, transferring from Presbytery of Western New York, and as Designated Pastor (5 year term) of the Westminster (Rehoboth) congregation, including terms of call, pending congregational action. Westminster approved the call on August 30. Date of Employment is October 5, 2020. Request for presbytery to approve an Administrative Commission for the purpose of Installation, to be appointed by the Moderator.

*COMC on October 8, 2020 recommended that New Castle Presbytery approve the 3 year re-commissioning of the following Commissioned Ruling Elders:

To "limited pastoral service in the presbytery":

Mark Douyard
Dave Norton
Rourke Moore

To “particular pastoral service for a congregation”:

Tim Arnold – Hanover
Mawuna Gardesey – Olivet
Anne Gunn - Perryville
Ginny Jones – Church of the Covenant & Edge for Tomorrow Ministry
Pam Ruarke – Faith Chapel
Rich Watters – Port Deposit & Christiana

*COMC on October 8, 2020 recommended New Castle Presbytery approve the revised Parental and Family Leave section of the 2021 Employment & Compensation Standards and Guidelines. Under Parental Leave, a significant change was made to strengthen and set a baseline expectation for this leave of 12 weeks. The Family Leave section now mirrors language from the Parental Leave section, and now also defines “family” more clearly and fully (spouse, partner, parent, child or others residing in same household).

*COMC on October 8, 2020 recommended that New Castle Presbytery approve the revised Appendix F, Examination Policy, for the Presbytery Manual. The revision will allow for a better, fuller experience, focusing on the candidate’s fit with the calling body, their sense of call and gifts, and hope for connection with presbytery.

*Recognition of Minister of Word and Sacrament Steven Brundage as Honorably Retired, First Church Newark, retiring December 31, 2020. Congregational Meeting held November 1, 2020. COMC approved November 12.

*Recognition of Minister of Word and Sacrament David Lovelace as Honorably Retired, Lower Brandywine congregation, retiring December 31, 2020. Congregational Meeting to be held November 15, 2020. COMC approved November 12, pending congregational action on November 15.

*Recognition of Minister of Word and Sacrament Cliff Richards—55 years of ministry.

Additional Actions Taken by COMC

COMC on September 10, 2020 approved a 3 month contract extension for pastoral services between the Elsmere congregation and Minister of Word and Sacrament Nona Holy and Candidate Lisa Chase, October 1 – December 31, 2020.

COMC on September 10 was informed about vandalism to Church on Main (Middletown) and its LGTBQ and Black Lives Matter flags and signage. COMC approved a motion to extend our solidarity and prayerful support to the Church on Main faith community via communication by the COMC Clerk.

COMC on October 8 approved the transfer of Minister of Word and Sacrament, At Large member Sam Monte to the Presbytery of Western Reserve.

Other

Minister of Word and Sacrament Kirk Dausman appointed Moderator of the Makemie Memorial Session, effective August 17, 2020; Minister of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired, David Parke is providing pulpit supply.

Orientation/Training Workshop for Liaisons working with Churches in Transition was organized and led by Sara Holben and Jenny Warren on October 19. Congregations and liaisons are:

- Easton - Maggie Gillespie
- First & Central - Tom Speers
- Elsmere - Steve Clark
- Makemie - Kirk Dausman
- Georgetown - Dave Norton
- Milford - Charles Gilmore
- Dover - Laurie Loveless
- Red Clay - Steve Clark
- Covenant - Tom Speers
- First Newark - John Balaguer