

REPORT TO SYNOD COUNCIL
CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

The Candidacy Committee of the Southeastern Synod met virtually August 20-21, 2020. Opening devotions focused on Jacob's wrestling with God at the River Jabbok and how Jacob left Jabbok a changed person. A fitting image for the candidacy process. Committee members and candidates meet at the River Jabbok to be touched and transformed by the presence of God. For we, candidates and members, like Jacob, are in the process of becoming and we accompany each other in that process.

For your review, the Candidacy Committee's meetings with each candidate include but are not limited to 3 major conversations:

Entrance - supporting the candidate as they enter their seminary experience

Endorsement - acknowledging that the candidate is ready for internship

Approval - the vote to approve the candidate for ordination

In addition, the Committee often meets with candidates at other times to monitor their progression in the process.

August 20 was our business meeting. The agenda included such topics as:

Welcoming Pastor Michelle Kuhlman, Pastor Steven Renner, the Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel as new members of the committee and Pastor Beverly Shaw as our new chaplain.

An in depth conversation, led by Pastor Jill Henning, of the committee member's responsibilities to individual candidates. We have 80 students in the process and this is an attempt to monitor and clarify where each candidate is in their seminary experience. Each committee member acts as a contact person for each student.

A theological discussion led by Bishop Strickland regarding Holy Communion and how it is appropriately shared in this COVID 19 world.

An update on many of the candidates in our process and how we can best support them in the years to come.

Decisions on some candidates that enabled them to move forward in the process.

A discussion of how a more flexible assignment process could benefit candidates approved for ordination.

August 21 was spent in panel discussions with 7 candidates. They include:

A unanimous vote to approve Anna Taylor McCants for ordination

A unanimous vote to approve Sister Silva Countess for ordination

A unanimous vote to approve Bruce Hayes for entrance into the seminary process

A developmental conversation with Isaac Taylor to assess and support his progression in the candidacy process

A unanimous vote to approve Michael Schulte for entrance into the seminary process

A unanimous vote to approve Ashton Roberts for ordination

A developmental conversation with Holly Cumming to assess and support her progression in the candidacy process

The next meeting of the Southeastern Synod's Candidacy Committee is scheduled for November 12-14, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted

Pastor Dave Helfrich
Chair