

## Committee on Preparation for Ministry

### *Presbytery of Southern New England*

September 18, 2019

#### Information items:

1. The committee has enrolled Alisa Dunavant (First: New Haven), Ryan Joslin (First: New Haven), and Grace Woodward (First: New Haven) as Inquirers.
2. Annual consultations have been held with Candidate Dale Green (St. Andrew: Groton), Candidate Jessica Jones (Wilton: Wilton), and Inquirer Nathan Taylor (Wilton: Wilton)
3. Inquire Nathan Taylor has been recommended by CPM to be received as a Candidate.
4. Jessica Jones has been Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
5. Currently under care of the Presbytery are 4 Inquirers, 4 Candidates, and 3 Candidates Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
6. The committee will meet next on October 8, 2019 at First: New Haven.

#### Action Items:

#### Motion

That the Presbytery **EXAMINE** Nathan Taylor and, pending the **APPROVAL** of such examination, **RECEIVE** him as a Candidate. Nathan Taylor is an Inquirer and a member of Wilton Presbyterian Church (Wilton, CT). He received his M.Div. degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond VA in June, 2017. For your information, his Statement of Faith is attached.

*Note:* The Committee wishes to remind the Presbytery that at this stage in the process, a candidate's statement of faith is a work in progress, and requests that the scope of this examination be limited to the candidate's Christian faith, forms of Christian service undertaken, and motives for seeking the ministry.

#### Statement of Faith – Nathan Taylor

I believe in, worship, and belong to one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity.

There is one person of the Parent (Mother/Father) of us all, who in love created all that has been, all that is, and all that will be. Despite our rebellion against the law and our failure to

uphold our end of the covenant, the Parent remains faithful. The Parent's steadfast love makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother attends to a nursing child and like a father runs to children who have strayed, our Heavenly Parent seeks us out and cares for us always, and claims us as their own child.

There is another person the Son, Jesus, the Word, who came down from heaven to live and walk among us, fully human and fully God. He preached good news to the oppressed and proclaimed the reign of God. He taught us the way through word and deed. He ate with outcasts, healed the sick, sided with compassion and grace over a strict interpretation of the law, and proclaimed God's order above and against the world's expectations. He ultimately laid down his life for us. He was and is resurrected to life and is with us still speaking as the living word. He lives and reigns as our Lord and Savior breaking the power of sin and saving us from death to life eternal. He is the head of the church, which is his body.

There is another person the Holy Spirit, our comforter and advocate that stirs us to action and moves us.

The three persons are coequal in glory and co-eternal in majesty. They are one Almighty, eternal and uncreated.

I believe God is the ultimate good, most sovereign, and most loving. God creates all things, redeems all things, sustains all things, rules all things, and transforms all things and all people.

Out of love, God seeks us and chooses us for salvation. Our salvation is only by the inescapable irresistible grace of God given freely to all God's elected children. I believe it is possible that all are elected. Our sacraments are both a witness to that grace and an active sharing of that grace. Through baptism, we are reminded that we belong to God because God claims us and seals us as God's own children. Through communion, we are drawn closer in the community to one another and to God as a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits and model for how we are to share at the table here and now. The proper response to this grace is to worship God through, praise, doing justice, and being merciful. But we as humans are totally depraved and even in our best actions fall short of the glory of God. This is a description of our condition; it is not who we are because we are still beloved children of God, bear the image of God, and named good by God.

Because of our total depravity, it is necessary to come together as a community and confess our failures and find support and accountability from our brothers and sisters in Christ. As we gather in worship we are reminded that we are God's hands and feet in this world. As such we are sent into the world not just to pray for it but also to be God's answer to prayers for those around us. By doing so we help ourselves and others glorify and enjoy God now and forever. In worship, we hear the Word of God proclaimed through the sermon and through the reading of scripture. Wherever the Word of God is proclaimed Jesus Christ is present. The Holy Bible is the Word of God and witnesses to God's self-revelation. I believe that God is still speaking and still

self-revealing in the world through the Word of God in scripture, the Word of God around us, and the Word of God within us.

God is good, God is love, God is for us; let us worship in praise and action.