

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of Southern New England

February 6, 2021

Information items

Since the last Presbytery meeting:

1. The committee met to discuss Candidate Gerson Roca (Providence, RI: Providence Presbyterian), and to discuss how CPM could be part of the on-going discussion with the Anti-Racism and Equity Team.
2. Currently under care of the Presbytery are 1 Inquirers, 8 Candidates and 4 Candidates Certified Ready to Receive a Call.
3. The committee's next meeting is April 13, 2021.

Action Items

Motion

We recommend in accordance with the new Form of Government G-2.0610 and G-2.0607d, PSNE to AUTHORIZE the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to oversee the process of ascertaining the readiness of Candidate Gerson Roca (Providence, RI: Providence Presbyterian) for ministry in two areas covered by the standard ordination examinations - the Bible Exegesis and Polity Ordination Exams – by alternative means. Candidate Gerson Roca's readiness will be determined in a series of dialogue-based examinations as well as written work.

RATIONALE: *Gerson Roca has been in the process of seeking Ordination for 16 years. He very much wants to be ordained and serve as a minister of word and sacrament. He is a native speaker of Portuguese and taking the ordination exams in English has been a long and difficult process for him. The Bible Exegesis and Polity exams are the only requirements left before he can become CRRC. The committee would like permission to set up these dialogue-based examinations, as well as the proper written exegetical work. Please note, we are not setting a new precedence or have the intent to simply move him on. As well, the Presbytery has already affirmed his call to the ministry when they voted him into the Candidacy Phase. He is currently working as a nurse at a hospital in MA, working closely with COVID patients and is under care of the Providence Presbyterian Church. The CPM will be resourced through this process with the Stated Clerk, General Presbyter and the Office of Examinations in the Office of the General Assembly and report back at the May meeting of the Presbytery.*

