

October 24, 2020

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report
Co-Moderators – Amy Morgan and Dennis Sohl**

For Action:

- 1) CPM VOTED to recommend to Presbytery to advance inquirer Ryan Miller, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Collins, Colorado, to the status of candidate.

For Information:

- 2) CPM VOTED to appoint TE Patricia Stetson-Warning and RE Cathy Bosley as ordination readers with the alternate being RE Craig Keeton.

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Statement of Faith
Ryan Miller

I believe in God the Creator, God's Holy Spirit, and God's Son, Jesus; and that, mysteriously, these three distinct beings, together, complete the Holy Trinity.

Long ago, as witnessed by the Old Testament, God created all that is and ordained it good. God moved the heavens then and continues to move them now. I believe the God of the Old Testament is the same God found in the New Testament, a God of love. This God works with us today through Scripture and by revelation of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was with God at creation and that the Spirit is God's wisdom and breath that brought life to all that is. The Spirit who brought life to the dry bones in Ezekiel is the same Spirit who released the fruit of hope, peace, joy, and love when Jesus ascended into heaven. By the grace and mercy of God, we now have access to these gifts.

Jesus is the Son of God sent by God to redeem us from ourselves. I believe that Jesus suffered, was crucified, died, and buried, but miraculously rose again. By Jesus' self-humbling, death and suffering were defeated. By Jesus' resurrection we were promised a new life in the Kingdom of Heaven, and that one day we will see the completion of God's work.

Knowing our choice, God still allowed humanity free will. With free will came the ability to sin or not. Unfortunately, our ancestors chose to break their covenant with God by succumbing to the temptation to share in the knowledge of God. Not only did this deprive every following generation of relationship with God, it defined every following disruption of humankind's relationship with God as an act of sin as well.

Fortunately, we are redeemed by Christ if we choose to accept this gift. By accepting Jesus' atonement, we are humbling ourselves, recognizing that this gift is undeserved for our continued sin. Due to God's great love for us, we were given the sacrament of Baptism to wash us clean of these sins. In Baptism, we offer ourselves to God, dying to this world and being born again into the Spirit. I see this as our new covenant with God. In the sacrament of Communion, I recognize all that God has done for me, sending Christ who was bloodied and broken by human hands.

In honor of God's great love and sacrifice, we worship! In resurrection, the good news is complete; death, pain and suffering are defeated, and we are given hope for a world renewed. In Scripture, we are charged to share this news with all creation. Finally, by the acceptance of these free gifts, we the Church - the body of Christ, the people of God - are called to proclaim the Gospel of salvation and to preserve the truth of Christ. We are called to shelter, nurture, and fellowship with all children of God by promoting social righteousness. Most importantly, we are called to be the Kingdom of Heaven in the world.