

**Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky**  
**Called Meeting**  
**August 17, 2022**  
**Beechmont Presbyterian Church**  
**AGENDA**

**Moderator: Teaching Elder Jim Murphy**

**Vice-moderator: Ruling Elder Perry Chang**

**Stated Clerk: Teaching Elder Jerry Van Marter**

**Recording Clerk: Teaching Elder Andrew Hartmans**

5:00 p.m.    **Gathering All Together** – Moderator Jim Murphy

- Opening prayer
- Welcome to our first time Ruling Elders and Guests
- Welcome and seating of any Corresponding Members
- Declaration of a quorum and approval of the docket.

5:10 p.m.    **Commission on Ministry report** – Bill McConnell, Chair

- Examination of Gina Meester for ordination (Gina, a candidate under the care of Homestead Presbytery, has received a call in Mid-Kentucky Presbytery).
  
- **FOR ACTION:** That the examination be arrested and sustained and that the presbytery approve the recommendation of the

Commission on Ministry that Gina Meester be approved for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Gina's call to serve as a chaplain with Norton Healthcare has been validated by the COM, pending this action.

5:45 p.m. **Adjournment with prayer**

*Next stated meetings: Monday, September 19, 2022 at Ebenezer/Greensburg*

*Saturday, November 12, 2022 at South Frankfort*

*Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Second (tentative)*

**A Liturgy for the Examination of a Candidate for Ordination  
To the Ministry of Word and Sacrament  
August 17, 2022 - The Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky**

\*Hymn

Litany

Moderator:

Merciful God, through the mouth of your beloved child,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, you said to us,  
'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;  
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.'

Presbyters:

We respond to your divine command, O Lord,  
and beseech you to richly bestow the Holy Spirit  
on our candidate this evening,  
and on all of us who are called to your ministry,  
that we, with a great multitude,  
may be your evangelists, true and steadfast.  
So may your name be hallowed, your kingdom come,  
and your will be done. Amen.

Examination of the Candidate for Ordination

Gina Meester

*Gina, a candidate under the care of Homestead Presbytery, has received a call in Mid-Kentucky Presbytery.*

The Commission on Ministry presents the Candidate.

The Candidate gives a word of greeting, reads a scripture lesson and preaches a sermon.

The COM chairperson asks the candidate to share a brief word of his/her faith journey, and hopes for serving in the ordered ministry of a teaching elder.

The Presbytery examines the candidate, excuses her/him from the meeting room, and acts on the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry to ordain the Candidate.

The Candidate is escorted back into the room, and the Moderator announces the Presbytery's action, with appropriate remarks.

If the examination has been sustained, the Presbytery approves plans for the Candidate's ordination and takes action as appropriate on the Candidate's Terms of Call.

Ascription of Praise - Moderator

**Gina Meester, M.Div.**  
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## **EDUCATION**

**Master of Divinity (M.Div.)**

**Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT)**

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

May 2021

**Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education - Magna Cum Laude**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

December 2011

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Clinical Pastoral Education - Resident**

**June 2021-Present**

**Clinical Pastoral Education - Intern**

**May 2019-August 2019**

Norton Healthcare

Louisville, KY

- Supports diverse population of patients, families, and staff for six-hospital healthcare system
- Provides crisis care at level-one trauma center for children
- Specializes in pediatric care, with experience in CICU, NICU, and PICU
- Participates in palliative care rounds, collaborating with the interdisciplinary team
- Communicates with Deaf patients using American Sign Language
- Notary Public
- Utilizes electronic medical records to chart and communicate with staff
- Plans and leads worship on adult and pediatric psychiatric units
- Completing four (4) units of ACPE Certified CPE

**Pastoral Intern - Field Education**

**September 2018-May 2019**

Springdale Presbyterian Church

Louisville, KY

- Planned and carried out leadership for Sunday morning worship, including preaching and children's messages
- Provided pastoral care to church members and their families
- Participated in weekly staff meetings for the care of the congregation

**Nursery Attendant**

**August 2017-September 2020**

Covenant Community Church

Louisville, KY

- Supervised and cared for children from birth through kindergarten during worship
- Taught weekly scripture reading in a developmentally appropriate way

**Lead Teacher**

**August 2015-July 2016**

Westside Early Childhood Center

Omaha, NE

- Supervised and cared for children ages eighteen months through three years

- Planned developmentally appropriate lesson plans
- Documented developmental growth and hosted biannual parent-teacher conferences

**Lead Teacher**

Fingerprints Child Development Center

- Provided care for children birth through three years
- Planned developmentally appropriate lesson plans

**September 2013-July 2015**

Lincoln, NE

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Volunteer to Pakistan**

**November 2014-February 2015**

- Worked with students in a pluralistic setting
- Assessed English reading level of students in grades 5, 6, and 7
- Developed and carried out English lesson plans for students in pre-k through grade 7

**Young Adult Volunteer to Tanzania**

**August 2012-July 2013**

- Taught math and English to students in grades 2, 3, and 4
- Substitute taught as needed
- Planned and led activities and worship for young adult group at church

**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Ordained Ruling Elder**

Presbyterian Church (USA) 2010

**Elected Member: Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee**

Presbyterian Church (USA) 2018-2022

**Board Member: Presbyterian Mission Agency**

Presbyterian Church (USA) 2014-2020

**Elected Member: Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns**

Presbyterian Church (USA) 2015-2018

**Delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**

United Nations - New York, NY 2017

**What events or persons have significantly affected your ministry?**

As a child, my dad, who is a PC(USA) pastor, took me along with him on hospital and home visits, from welcoming new babies to visiting people after surgery to visiting with people who were dying. I loved visiting congregants with him, which I believe instilled a call to pastoral care in me from an early age. Because of these visits, I am very comfortable around people of all ages, including very sick or dying people. Learning and serving abroad, particularly in Nicaragua, Tanzania, and Pakistan, has helped shape me and my view of the world. In Nicaragua I learned more about the church's involvement in justice work, including fair trade coffee, and how deeply impactful fair trade initiatives are. In Tanzania I worked and worshipped with others from around the continent, learning about how their faith and culture are tied together. In Pakistan, I taught in a pluralistic setting, teaching both Christian and Muslim students. I witnessed firsthand how the two religions came together to work towards a most tolerant and loving society. All these experiences helped me to better serve the diverse population I minister to in the hospital setting. My mentor, Robin, a chaplain with Norton Healthcare, has been invaluable in my training as a chaplain, both as an intern and as a resident. Through conversation and observation, I have learned how to be a compassionate support and presence to those I am ministering to.

**What theological beliefs have emerged as critical to your practice of ministry?**

I believe that all people are doing the best they can. I have seen some horrific things while serving as a chaplain, and rather than judging those who I am ministering to, I choose to believe that they are doing their best they can with what they have. This belief allows me to provide pastoral care to people who are addicted to drugs, people who are serving prison sentences, and people who have harmed children, accidentally or intentionally. Treating all people as children of God is an imperative part of my role as a chaplain. This means providing care to people I may not agree with theologically, politically, or socially. Believing that people are doing the best they can allows me to set aside those differences and focus on supporting people where they are.

**What experiences have challenged or affirmed your faith?**

One experience that has challenged my faith in the hospital setting was providing care to the family of a young adolescent who completed suicide. I supported the family when they initially arrived at the hospital in a trauma room, and continued to provide support throughout their time in the hospital while they waited for test results and answers. Praying for their child to wake up, when medical staff did not think that would happen, was one of the most difficult things I've done as a chaplain. While I cannot point to any specific year at Synod School in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Synod School has been a constant in my life that has continuously affirmed my faith. I have attended Synod School twenty-six years; every year I am awed by the creativity, generosity, and leadership provided at Synod School. Each year has taught me new things, provided introspection, and allowed me to experience different worship leadership. I have formed deep connections that will last a lifetime.

with people I have met at Synod School. Every year I have felt moments of God's presence while at Synod School, and each year it provides a renewal of my faith.

**What is your view of the sacraments in practice of your ministry?**

Although foot washing is not a sacrament in the PC(USA), it was a practice that Jesus led and participated in. I see my ministry in the hospital setting as a time of serving people, just as Jesus served his disciples when he washed their feet. Sitting with patients and/or their families in their grief, praying with patients and their families, and providing spiritual and emotional support where they are are key aspects of my ministry. Additionally, there have been and will continue to be occasions in which I am asked to provide the sacrament of Baptism or Communion to a sick or dying patient in the hospital. While it is not appropriate in all circumstances, the ability to provide those sacraments when it is appropriate is a vital part of my ministry.

**What is your view of the government of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in light of your practice of ministry?**

As a chaplain member of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, I understand that I will be under the governance of the PC(USA) and report to Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. My work will be guided by the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions.

**How do you envision your ministry advancing the mission of God's people and sharing the good news to the world?**

As a chaplain, I view my support and ministry of presence as advancing the mission of God's people. In Matthew 25 we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to those who are thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. I see the ministry I provide as a chaplain as following the call of Matthew 25. Sometimes my role is to literally provide a drink for someone - a parent who arrived in the emergency department with their child after an accident, or helping a busy nurse by taking ice chips to a patient she is caring for. More often my ministry is caring for the spiritual and emotional aspect of those who are sick or grieving.

**How do you anticipate becoming involved actively with the work of the Presbytery and in one of its congregations?**

I completed my field education at Springdale Presbyterian during the 2018-2019 academic year, and because there were no field ed students the two years following, I remained at Springdale, worshipping with the congregation both in person and online. I intend to continue to be actively involved at Springdale at this time, worshipping with the community and participating in the adult Sunday School class and other activities of the church.

As a self-proclaimed Presbyterian nerd, I enjoy committee work and Presbytery meetings. As a future clergy member who is not serving a church, I will do my best to attend Presbytery meetings, as my job allows. I will discern opportunities to serve the larger Presbytery, and am interested in providing pulpit supply on occasion.

**Do you understand and agree that your ministry is to be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the Presbytery and is to be reviewed annually (unless you are honorably retired)?**

Yes

I have often said that I literally grew up in the church. My dad is a Presbyterian pastor, and church building was my second home. My first memories of church are from the church I attended in Lincoln, beginning in June 1994. As many pastors' families can attest to, I was often at the church long after everyone else had gone home after Sunday worship, and frequently there in the evenings during meetings. I even remember getting picked up from school when I got sick and being taken to the church. The church building was my second home.

Prior to college, I did not have a choice about attending worship - my parents expected me to be there. During my childhood I attended Sunday School and VBS and sang in the children's choir. As I got older, I chose more involvement in the church beyond worship. I went through confirmation class and became a member of the church in middle school. In high school, in addition to Sunday School, I played the piano for the children's choir, participated in the bell choir, and helped with the service, collecting offering, serving as liturgist, etc. Church was just part of who I was. I feel I am sort of an anomaly, in that during college I continued to regularly attend church. I was even ordained as a Ruling Elder during my college years. I maintained relationship and membership with my church in Lincoln, while regularly attending worship in Omaha, where I went to college. Although people began asking me around age ten about seminary, I had no intention of seeking a call to ministry.

Even though I have been actively involved in church my entire life, I have done most of my spiritual growth outside of the church walls. The most major factor in my faith development has been Synod School in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. I first attended with my parents when I was five and have been back nearly every summer since. It was at Synod School that I learned different ways to worship. I saw people of different ages, genders, and backgrounds leading worship. Children and youth were actively encouraged to participate. Worship was always amazing, engaging, and progressive. I learned new songs, new prayers, new ways to worship God and even delivered my first "sermon" at Synod School. I also attended summer church camp at Calvin Crest in Nebraska every summer after 1st through 12th grade. My favorite part of camp was always the campfire. Each night, we would gather around the fire to sing songs, learn more about the Bible, hear stories of faith, and pray. At camp, I learned about my own faith and beliefs as distinct from my family. It was not that I left my family's faith, I encountered new ways of thinking and talking about my own beliefs.

Additionally, I have had international experiences that have shaped my faith as well. I served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Tanzania. On the weekends I helped lead a youth church, both with activities and with Sunday morning worship. Morning worship typically lasted a few hours with lots of singing and praising. Because the young adults were from a variety of African countries, the different African cultures were blended into the service. I also volunteered with the Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan for three months. I learned a lot about the overlap of culture and religion and the bending of Middle Eastern culture and norms with Christian practices. While I was in Pakistan, there was a terrible mass shooting at the Army Public School on the other side of the country. That afternoon, the Muslim and Christian students and teachers came together and held a prayer service. It was one of the most beautiful moments I have ever witnessed, and was a perfect example of two faiths joining together for good.

## Statement of Faith

God is triune - parent, child, and spirit - who creates, sustains, and redeems us. I believe that God is the creator of the universe - the world and everything in the world. As the maker of all things, the Holy One made humans in God's own image; all ethnicities, races, abilities, sexual identities, and gender identities were made in God's image. The Holy One reached out to to humanity and made a covenant with us. God sent God's only child to save humans from our sins, both personal sins and structural and systemic sins.

I believe that Jesus Christ is God's only child, fully human and fully divine, born to a Jewish family under the Roman empire. Jesus was sent by God to bring peace and reconciliation to the world. Through Christ, Christians are reconciled to both God and one another. Jesus's life and actions provide an example to the Church for how to live and be in the world. During his life and in his death Jesus suffered oppression under unjust rule. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ saved humanity from our sins.

I believe that the Holy Spirit was sent by God to work in and through humans in order for us to live in relationship with God and one another. The Holy Spirit helps us, empowers us, and comforts us during our time on earth.

I believe that Scripture is holy text, written by humans, inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is a collection of narratives, historical documents, prose, and poetry that when read and interpreted reveals the triune God to humanity. It is our responsibility as Christians to read the Biblical texts through their historical, literary, and theological lens to guide us in our actions today. The sacraments of baptism and communion are visible signs of invisible truths that are instrumental to the ministry and mission of the church. The sacraments bring us together as relational people, connecting us to one another, through the triune God. Our baptism is a sign that we are part of the body of Christ, the Church, and we are all God's children. When partaking in the eucharist we are reminded that when Jesus died his body was broken for us, his blood was shed for us, and that he was resurrected.

God calls each one of us by name into varying ministries both inside and outside the church walls. Together we make up the body of Christ, working to care for God's creation. As the body of Christ, I believe our primary work is to live out Jesus's teachings and commandments in the world. The ministries of the church should be a model of Jesus Christ's teachings found in Matthew 25: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, give drink to the thirsty, and visit those who are sick or in prison. When we do not care for ourselves or for our neighbors, we sin against God. Therefore, we must stand on the side of the oppressed, the marginalized, and the disadvantaged.