

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Michael Burch, Chairperson

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

Annual 2011 Report

God works in mysterious ways! When we were called to serve as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, we were assuming the position was for another youth minister. However, upon his first visit with the APNC, Pastor James enlightened us with his vision of the future of LCOP. He told us this associate pastor calling would focus mainly on the 20-30 year-olds and their respective families. We eagerly went about learning how the Presbyterian Church USA ministry calling procedures work. With the able assistance of John Brooks, our Presbytery Representative, we learned the appropriate methodology in selecting a candidate to nominate for this calling. We were infused with the meaning of what a CIF (Church Information Form) and a PIF (Personal Information Form) meant. James, LCOP Session, John, and the COM (Committee on Ministry) guided us through our process from the Presbytery of Olympia.

After several reviews and revisions, we were ready to issue the calling for LCOP through the Presbyterian Church USA website. We received dozens upon dozens of PIFs (think resume') from prospective candidates. Reviewing, grading, interviewing, and prioritizing these candidates took many dedicated meetings by each member of the APNC. Prayerful thought and consideration were discussed at each of our meetings. Narrowing down the candidates to the final three was indeed difficult, to say the least. The finalists were interviewed again when they visited LCOP. While they were here, the APNC was instructed to attend a sermon at a "neutral pulpit" where each of them preached a sermon. After eliminating one person, we were left with two candidates that appeared equally qualified. In a quandary, of which candidate God wanted us to select, we prayed and discussed this issue with James and John. They were helpful, but the ultimate decision was left up to the APNC. Without elaborating what events occurred, a selection was made, but did not go smoothly. We enlisted the help of John (who had been through 15 callings before), who stated that he had never seen any calling go the way that this one had. We then incorporated the guidance of Lynn Longfield, the General Presbyter. Many phone calls, e-mails, and meetings followed. Upon reflecting what was happening, we decided to pray fervently for God's help, and he answered. It was strongly felt by all in the APNC that God was leading us to issue the calling to Brad Epperson.

Brad grew up in LCOP and stated in interviews how much he loved our church. He has exemplified strong Christian commitment throughout his life. He will be a willing and able servant of the Lord to magnify the mission of LCOP. Once again, we of the APNC want to state that God works in ways we do not understand, we just need to listen.

In His service, and respectfully submitted,

Michael Burch, Chair APNC

APNC members includ: Lisa Thomas, Marie Griffith, Bobbie Jo Riley, Corey Upton, and Rick Norberg (I extend my heartfelt appreciation for the dedication of each of these members...“Well done, good and faithful servants!”)