

Committee on Ministry- Presbytery of Arkansas
Report of Central Arkansas Examinations Subcommittee
Examination of Elizabeth Gabbard for
Fit as Transitional Part-time Minister at First Presbyterian Church-
Jacksonville, Arkansas

June 27, 2019

Members of the Central Arkansas Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas met on June 27, 2019 at the office of the Presbytery of Arkansas to conduct the examination of Elizabeth Gabbard for Fit as Transitional Part-time Minister at First Presbyterian Church- Jacksonville, Arkansas.

Members in attendance were: Retired MWS Don Campbell, Elder Sid McCollum, Retired MWS Sally Johnson, Elder Jim Morehead and Elder Don Eilbott, moderator. Elder Wendell Phillips excused himself from the meeting. General Presbyter Stewart Smith also attended. Stewart opened the meeting with prayer.

Elizabeth is a member in good standing of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Her most recent pulpit was at First Arkadelphia and she has been serving as Stated Supply at Gurdon. This is an examination for fit only.

Her resume and Statement of Faith were reviewed. A PNC has not yet prepared a Church Information Form, so none was available.

The Session is hiring this position and Elders Pam Mathews, Mary Fischer and Jeannie Price were present. MWS Lindy Vogado, liaison, was also present

From the outset all members of the Committee expressed concern with the fact that the Transitional Pastoral Covenant Relationship Agreement requires 20 hours of service per week and Elisabeth has a full-time position as a bank teller. This concern was the focus of extended discussions first with the members of the Session and then with Elizabeth.

Computations were made of hours available, discussions were had as to sermon preparation time, scheduling of weddings and funerals, and other questions investigating the fit of the Church with Elizabeth and their respective expectations.

It is apparent that the Session is enthusiastic about Elizabeth. It is apparent Elizabeth is committed to dedicating herself to the position and the opportunity to engage in service in accordance with her call as a minister.

The Committee met privately and sustained the examination. In doing so it set the following requirement which was explained in detail to Elizabeth and the Session in a joint setting:

The Covenant is for one year. The Committee will select a date in approximately three (3) months for the Session representatives and Elizabeth to return to the Committee. This will be done in coordination with another meeting and will not be a special meeting. Elizabeth and the Session will both be provided an opportunity, individually and together, to discuss the current status of the relationship. The Committee will continue that process as needed to assure that the parties have a relationship in the best interest of all. Specifically the Committee will want to inquire as to the Session's level of satisfaction with the time made available by Elizabeth and in addition as to Elizabeth's satisfaction that the Session is not placing requirements in excess of those anticipated.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Elizabeth.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don A. Eilbott", enclosed within a circular flourish.

Don A. Eilbott, Moderator