

Committee on Ministry- Presbytery of Arkansas
Report of Central Arkansas Examinations Subcommittee
Examination of MWS Kris Crawford for
Membership in Presbytery of Arkansas and for
Fit for Interim Pastor, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church,
Little Rock, Arkansas

October 15, 2019

Members of the Central Arkansas Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Arkansas met on October 15, 2019 at the office of the Presbytery of Arkansas to conduct the examination of MWS Kris Crawford for Membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas and for Fit for Interim Pastor, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members in attendance were: Elder Sid McCollum, MWS Alisa Secrest, MWS Carol Clark, Elder Wendell Phillips, Elder Jim Morehead and Elder Don Eilbott, moderator. General Presbyter Stewart Smith also attended the meeting.

Kris has a long and distinguished record of service as a pastor with an emphasis on service as an interim pastor on multiple prior occasions. She is currently a member in good standing of Grace Presbytery, Texas. Her resume and Statement of Faith were reviewed. She is a former member of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The Committee first visited with a group of Elders from Westover Hills representing the selection committee on behalf of the Session. Those members were Ray Koone, Mary Ellen Holder, Tammi Pflug, and Deanine Rogers. A lengthy discussion was held as to the current status of Westover. Points included an anonymous letter that has circulated, the departure of the recent pastor, communications or lack thereof concerning that departure, church finances, congregational outreach, and lingering issues concerning prior pastors. In each instance the Elders advised that Kris had been informed of the current situations. She has been provided the anonymous letter for review and has discussed the other items with the Elders.

They did not believe there would be any challenge with performing the Covenant and that the salary stated was approximately that paid to the prior pastor. The finance chair was included in the group of Elders and agreed. The Elders did not anticipate any reduction in active members.

The Elders noted the enthusiasm of Kris, her prior pre-school experience, important to Westover, and the sense that she would bring “new life” to the congregation.

Kris was then examined. Kris exhibited a broad understanding of the dynamics of an interim position and the challenges involved. She has significant prior experience as an interim. In each instance she agreed that she was aware of matters that would constitute current challenges to

Westover. She stated she had prior experience in dealing with similar challenges. She confirmed her agreement to the terms of the Covenant

Kris was then examined at length by all members of the Subcommittee. The examination was on each of the following areas:

- Christian Faith
- Bible and Views in Theology
- Views Regarding the Sacraments
- The Government of the PCUSA
- Denominational Commitment, Collegiality, Working with others
- Personal Integrity, Maturity, Character, Wholeness
- Vision and Leadership Capacity and Skills
- Pastoral Sensitivity
- Fit

It was apparent that Kris possesses a clear understanding of the Presbyterian Church and its mission. Her theological references were sound. Her responses on issues concerning sacraments and faith were in accordance with Presbyterian theology and polity.

She shared her personal history and faith journey with the Subcommittee.

The subcommittee then met privately and unanimously sustained the examination of MWS Kris Crawford for Membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas and for Fit for Interim Pastor, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. Further, the subcommittee reviewed the Covenant and recommends approval of same to the Committee on Ministry- Presbytery of Arkansas.

The standard forms have been provided to Kris. She was reminded to complete the forms and forward them promptly to State Clerk Leslie Belden.

GP Smith discussed approval by Presbytery in March 2020 and potential approval by the Coordinating Council in the interim. The Covenant commences today, and she will take the field in furtherance of the performance of her agreement. The Covenant contains multiple distinct goals that were specifically included considering the current status of the Church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Kris.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don A. Eilbott", with a large, stylized flourish that loops back under the name.

Don A. Eilbott, Moderator