

Report of the Candidacy Committee Indiana-Kentucky Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Stephen M. Wood, Chair

June 5 – 7, 2008

Purpose: The role of the Candidacy Committee is to walk with people as they live in God's Amazing Grace as they discern a call to rostered leadership within the ELCA. We seek to be ministry focused as we interview and work with individuals to see how they can contribute to the mission of the church through the shape of their call. The committee seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we make decisions and guide people's formation processes so that they may be equipped and empowered to be mission directors within the ELCA.

Changes in the committee: The committee welcomed one new member: Barb Atwood.

Candidacy Steps:

Below are definitions of the steps in the candidacy process:

- *Applicant*—these are people who have inquired about candidacy and have received information and may have submitted an application but do not have a positive decision enrolling them in the candidacy process.
- *Candidate*—this is a person who has had a positive entrance decision and is officially in the process towards being a rostered leader
- *Entrance*—this is the first decision step in the process. It entails an interview with three members of the committee who make a recommendation (to entrance, to postpone, or to deny) to the committee as a whole. Prior to the entrance interview the person must submit all paperwork, have a congregational registration, completed the psychological testing, completed a background check, and have an initial interview.
- *Endorsement*—this is the second decision step in the process. This normally happens during the fall semester during the second year for people in the Ordained Track or at some mid-point during the educational requirements for the Diaconal or Associate in Ministry Tracks. This interview involves seminary faculty and two members of the committee. This small group makes a recommendation to the entire committee.
- *Approval*—this is the final decision step in the process. This interview is with 4-5 people from the committee along with recommendations from the seminary and internship/field experience. If the person is approved at this step, they are eligible for call within the ELCA. Once the person receives a call, then they are a rostered leader in the ELCA.

Thanks: The committee is thankful to the other partners in this process. These other partners are: Marilyn Smith (Region 6 Coordinator) who represent the ELCA and the Unit for Vocation and Education; Dr. Don Huber (Seminary Rep) who represents the seminary on the committee; and Dr. Bill Gafjken (Assistant to the Bishop) who is our synod staff person and puts in many hours to help the committee and candidates navigate the entire process.

Statistics: {NOTE: it is impossible to have complete statistics for the committee as the numbers can change daily, below are the numbers for the committee on March 1, 2008. }

Total people seeking candidacy via I-K Synod:	55
People who have inquired about candidacy:	62
People entranced:	13
People endorsed:	9
Postponements:	2
Denials	1
People approved (August 2007/January 2008):	6 (1-Reinstatements; 5 – <i>Pastors</i>)

(This is the break out of the 55 people in the candidacy process)

Ordained Track:	44 (1 person in TEEM process)
Diaconal Track:	5
Associate in Ministry Track:	5
Reinstatement to Roster	1

Members of the committee: Rev. Jane Aicher, Barb Atwood, Rev. Bill Andrews, Rev. Martin Bornhoeft, Rev. Bill Gafkjen (Synod Director of Candidacy), Rev. Joyce Gerwing, Kaye Hill, Dr. Arlin Jansen, Sr. Vanette Kashmer, Dr. Donald Huber (seminary rep.), Marsha Metzger, Rev. Al Rider, Rev. John Santoro, Marilyn Smith (Region 6), Rev. Stephen Wood (chair)

