

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Peter Vial, Committee on Ministry Chair

May 19, 2022

INFORMATION:

1. Approved the match between **Glenville Presbyterian Church** and **Elizabeth Lewis**.
2. Approved the terms of call between **Glenville Presbyterian Church** and **Elizabeth Lewis**.
Terms: cash salary \$60,000, of this amount \$3,000 is designated as manse allowance; utilities \$7,200; SECA \$6,756; auto reimbursement at the IRS rate; continuing education \$1,500; tax deferred equity fund \$500; Board of Pensions; vacation 4 weeks (including Sundays); continuing education 2 weeks (including Sundays). The church will pay moving expenses.
3. Approved **Elizabeth Lewis** for membership in the Presbytery of West Virginia. Elizabeth's autobiographical statement and Statement of Faith follow this report.

Biographical Information for Elizabeth Lewis

I was raised in southeast Georgia in a strict Southern Baptist home in the 1960s and 70s in a lower socio-economic household. There has never been a time when I did not know about God's love or feel that I loved God. I made a profession of faith and was baptized when I was seven years old.

When I was twelve years old, I thought God was calling me to the vocation of mission work, so I became very diligent in my school work and extremely serious about my growth in faith.

I managed to go to college and majored in Early Childhood Education, thinking that teachers were needed all over the world. After graduation, I learned that in the Southern Baptist Convention I needed 2 years of experience and a master's degree in my field before I could even begin the application process for mission work, so I started teaching and going to night school.

When my father died, I needed to take care of my mother, and I assumed my perceived call to ministry was off base and gave up the dream.

Eventually, I moved and then suffered a major depression after all these years of turmoil, and actually left the church for a while. I feared that if I couldn't get my family "fixed" and my own life on an even keel, then I wasn't really putting my trust in God. I didn't know what else to do to make God love me, so I just gave up.

I soon missed the community of faith and the proclamation of the gospel, so I returned, but not to the Baptist tradition. I landed in a Presbyterian church where I came to know, for the first time, that God loves us unconditionally, not because of what we do or how good we are but because of who God is.

I was in a study group with women who were deacons, elders, Sunday School teachers, and a female minister. I took every opportunity to talk to them about their theology, especially around the topics of grace, forgiveness, baptism, and providence. Finally, I began to sense a call to ministry again and explored this by becoming a Stephen Minister in my new church. I found that I had a capacity for empathy for those who were struggling with difficult life situations, as I had done. I had a passion for helping people understand God's love for them apart from anything that we can possibly do.

After 14 years in the classroom, I was soon enrolled in seminary. After my internships in CPE and the church, I felt called to chaplaincy because I loved the clinical setting.

As the first full-time chaplain at Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury, I created the chaplaincy program and have thrived in this role for 19.5 years. Due to the high demands of this work, I have not been able to be a part of a local church. Being a minister in a church where I can facilitate spiritual growth as I lead this family in ministry and service is where my heart is at this time.

Theological Statement of Faith

Elizabeth Lewis

I believe in God the Father,

Who creates and sustains all things for God's own good pleasure;
Who has been, from the beginning of time, reconciling creation to himself
From the waters of the great flood to the waters of baptism,
From the law given at Sinai to the gift of Jesus Christ;
Who is faithful in all times and places;
Who is likened in Scripture to both a Mother and a Father indicating the relationality of God;
Whose justice and mercy endure forever for all people, and
Whose grace is sufficient.

I believe in God the Son – Jesus the Christ – God's Living Word,

Who was both fully human and fully God;
Whom God sent as a vulnerable, infant, Palestinian, Jewish boy born of a woman of low estate
To be a gift of grace to all people
In a sinful world that was unable to reconcile itself to God;
Who grew up as the son of a carpenter;
Who was tempted, but without sin;
Who ignored all social and religious hierarchies that oppressed, devalued, or dehumanized;
Who loved the unlovable, accepted the unaccepted, and forgave the unforgiveable;
Who healed the sick and honored the poor, fed the hungry, and encouraged the faint hearted;
Who taught and preached, performed miracles and told parables;
So that God's love and grace might be known to a broken and dying world.
Jesus was accused of crimes he did not commit and sentenced to die the death of a criminal;
He offered himself as a sacrifice for all;
Endured the shame of the cross so that all people might be reconciled to God;
He died so that we might live with hope and joy,
and lived so that we might die with faith and courage;
He was dead and buried in a tomb for three days;
On the third day he was raised from the dead overcoming the power of sin and death once for all.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit;

Who gives the gift of faith and
Through whom we are justified by grace through faith
Thus reconciling us to God
So that we may live in communion with God
Loving others and ourselves as God loves us;

Who calls us to worship the God of our creation with our whole hearts;
Who empowers us to serve the God of our salvation with our whole being;
Who supports us with courage for the journey, strength for the task, and hope for the living of this life.

I believe in the unity of these three – One God in three personas – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

I believe that God gave us 2 sacraments through which God marks us for and sustains us in our journey of faith.

In Baptism God claims us as God's own cleansing us of all sin and calling us to service.

In the Eucharist God nourishes us for the journey of life and faith.

I believe that the books of the Old and New Testaments are God's authoritative witness to the Living word,

Jesus the Christ, and that we are to live our lives in accordance with these God-breathed Scriptures.