



PRESBYTERY
of West Virginia

**Virtual Stated Meeting
Presented on Zoom
February 20, 2025**

Supplemental Packet

	<u>Page #</u>
Report of the Vocations Committee _____	1-3
Report of the Committee on Ministry _____	4-6

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Todd Wright, Committee Chair
February 20, 2025 - Supplement

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Presbytery proceed to examine **Victoria Krebs**, a candidate from the Abingdon Presbytery seeking ordination to serve as pastor at the **First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield**.

INFORMATION:

1. The committee reviewed Ms. Krebs's preparation file from the Abingdon Presbytery and noted that she has fulfilled all of the requirements set forth in G-2.0607 regarding preparation for ministry. The committee reviewed a sermon, statement of faith, exegetical work, and biography, and conducted a thorough examination of her readiness for ordination. Ms. Krebs' autobiographical statement and Statement of Faith are included in the supplemental packet.

Victoria Krebs' Bio

I grew up in Decatur, AL, and spent most of my adult life in Charlotte, NC, before moving to Virginia in 2018 and falling in love with the Appalachian Mountains. Being the product of a Catholic mom and a Baptist dad, I spent most of my life in the Presbyterian church.

Since an early age, I have acknowledged my call to serve others. As a child, I wanted to become a teacher. As I matured, I dreamed of helping children in a larger capacity by becoming a juvenile defender or child psychologist. When I went to college, I majored in psychology and then taught at the Montessori school that my daughter attended. In 2013, after working as a Montessori teacher for 6 years, I left to homeschool my children, Amelia and Jeremiah.

While homeschooling my children, I realized that I was still being called to teach, but in a different capacity than I had ever imagined. My daughter's social and spiritual needs were being met through our church's youth group, but my son needed a similar outlet and I needed to use my talents for teaching kids that weren't in my household. Knowing that our church did not have any programming for children, I approached our interim minister and explained that I was thinking about looking for another church so that I could find one that better fit our needs. She told me that she believed I was being called to start a children's ministry there. At first, I was overwhelmed by the idea of starting up my own program, but received overwhelming support from the church in starting up the program, which primarily reached children outside of the church. Though my son was the only student attending for the first several months, we grew the program slowly, made transitions when necessary, even running fully online during COVID, and today the program serves an average of 20 children a week, many of whom are otherwise unchurched.

While I was running the children's program, I was called to be an elder and to lead the Christian Education Committee, all of which eventually led me to seminary in an effort to become more confident in the way that I taught others about God. It took two years for me to actually start classes, but once I did, I realized that I was called to do more than teach from the classroom, I was called to teach from the pulpit and through the way I live my life. It was time to stop running and start listening, so I added an MDiv to the MACE degree that I was already pursuing. I became an inquirer in the Charlotte Presbytery, but after completing my first preaching class, I transferred my church membership and my care to the Abingdon Presbytery, where I started providing pulpit supply a couple of Sundays a month. This led me to Richlands Presbyterian Church, where I served as student minister throughout 2023. After learning many valuable lessons there and finishing my stint as student pastor, I stepped into the role of Chairman at Teen Venture (an afterschool non-profit that serves middle and high school students). Though I had already been involved with Teen Venture for a year before accepting this role, I have learned more about leadership in this position than I could have ever imagined.

As I have used and developed my talents I have come to understand that God has called me to a life of ministry. I look forward to further developing these talents and learning new ones as I serve in my first call and continue to teach and love the people to whom God has called me to serve, teach, and lead.

Statement of Faith for Victoria Krebs

I believe that the triune God reveals the importance of relationship and community. God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit together are one, revealing that love and connection go hand in hand with faith and unity.

I believe God, the creator of the universe and all good things, is ever present across time and space. Yet, God chooses to be in relationship with each creation and created human beings in God's own image, so that we might maintain a relationship with God and embody God's loving nature to the world that God created.

I believe Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine. In this form, God's nature was visibly shown, as Jesus demonstrated how to live and love perfectly in a fallen world. Jesus Christ lived, suffered, and died in this world, uniting with us in fighting against the harsh realities of this world. Because of Christ, we can rest assured that God understands our experiences and stands with us as we encounter temptations, suffering, joys, and triumphs.

I believe Jesus died for our sins and was raised, revealing God's power, even over death. This act revealed God's deep love for humanity and for each of us as individuals, assuring of God's love and mercy, which we are encouraged to pass on to others in gratitude for God's forgiveness of our sins. After being raised, Christ ascended and now directs the Church as its head – leading, guiding, and strengthening members of the Universal Church to use their collective gifts to share God's loving mercy with the world.

I believe the Holy Spirit works in the world through everyday coincidences and miracles alike. Like the wind, the breath of God cannot be seen, but can be felt as we move through our daily lives. The Spirit makes itself known in this still, silent voice when we are listening for it, and it acts without our notice when we are not paying attention. Yet, whenever we do pay attention, we can notice the presence of the Holy Spirit and feel its effect on our lives.

I believe the Bible was written and edited over many years, by those who were called by God to inspire and reveal God's nature across time and space. Though we are able to see God in the natural world, the Scriptures give us a deeper understanding of God, moving us to realize and reflect God's nature to the world.

I believe there are two sacraments which reveal God's grace in tangible ways. Baptism is a sign of our membership in the church, which is God's family. Communion reminds us of this membership through both physical and spiritual nourishment, as we unite with God and one another. This unity gives us the strength we need to reflect God's nature to the world.

I believe the Church is the Body of Christ, uniting with God, through the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love to the world that God created. The communal nature of the Church reflects God's trinitarian nature, as its various members work together to make God's love and unity visible in an often divided and hostile world.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

George Lilley, Committee Chair
February 20, 2025 - Supplement

INFORMATION:

1. The committee approved the match between **Ms. Victoria Krebs** and the **First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield**.
2. The committee examined and approved for membership in the Presbytery of West Virginia **Ms. Krebs** pending the successful completing of an examination by the Vocations Committee and pending her successful examination for ordination by the Presbytery.
3. The committee approved the Terms of Call between **Ms. Krebs** and **First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield**. The information provided met the standards of the Presbytery. It is on file with the Presbytery and may be reviewed.
4. The committee appointed **Julie Olt** (minister, Old Stone) as a mentor for **Ms. Krebs**.

Commissioning of a Commissioned Pastor

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Moderator: We, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.

**People: We have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering;
the teacher, in teaching;
the exhorter, in exhortation;
the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence;
the compassionate, in cheerfulness.**

COM Chair: Lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
making every effort to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**People: There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

COM Chair: We are called by God
to be the church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today
of what God intends for all humankind.

**People: The great ends of the Church are
the proclamation of the gospel
for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship
of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;**

**the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven
to the world.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

CHARGE

Moderator: On behalf of the Presbytery of West Virginia, I welcome you Rodrigo and Susan to ministry as Commissioned Pastors.

COM Chair: Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

All: Amen.

Resource Used: 2018 Book of Common Worship