

## Committee on Church Vocations

The Committee on Church Vocations serves as the candidacy committee for those persons seeking to roster with the ELCA in the following areas of service: ordained minister, diaconal minister, deaconess or associate in ministry. Comprised of lay and ordained men and women of the NWPAs Synod and with representation from Region 8 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the committee is responsible for shaping the preparation of candidates and for making evaluative decisions at three key stages: entrance, endorsement and approval.

This past year we had one ordination, Jeff Ewing, who will serve at First Lutheran Church in Warren, and one new candidate was welcomed into the process for ordained ministry. Kristen Kern is currently finishing her undergraduate degree at Mercyhurst in Erie and plans to enter the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in the fall of 2011. Cindy Coleman was reinstated on the roster of the ELCA and has been assigned to the North Carolina Synod. Jennifer Kopacz and Scott Lee were both approved for ordination last fall. Jennifer has been assigned to the Upper Susquehanna Synod (PA) and awaits a call. Scott has chosen to wait for assignment until the fall of 2011. Two of our TEEM candidates, Brenda Martin and Keith McCutcheon, were approved for ordination at our March 2011 meeting.

Our M.Div. students not mentioned above are: Meredith Harber at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Chicago, Colleen Hetrick who is going off to Chattanooga, TN for her CPE training; Steve Nesbitt, currently serving his internship at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Northampton, PA; Brian Riddle, also serving his internship here in our Synod at Bethesda Children's Home and St. Paul's Drakes Mills.

TEEM candidate Tedd Cogar is serving as Vicar at Luther Chapel in Coral. Our other TEEM candidate, Mary Margosian is continuing her studies. Our only AIM candidate, Mary Housholder is working on a final project for her program.

Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated by the candidates and the committee.

My sincere thanks to the committee for all their hard work this past year. Pastor Steve Bond finished his term this spring. We thank him for his insight and ability to articulate his love of the church and God.

Committee:

Pastor Deborah Jacobson

Mr. Bob Engstrom

Pastor Steve Bond

Pastor Sandra Jones

Ms. Heather Wilt

Dr. David Olson

Pastor Arlene Schweitzer, Chaplain

Pastor Steve Folkemer

Ms. Nancy Gable

Yours in Christ,

Trudy Taylor, Chair

