

Report of the Director of Ministerial Candidates

June 9, 2023

Our faithful God is still calling people into ministry in the Harvest Conference, and we have given direction wherever needed to guide those pursuing ordination to the chosen ministry. Thankfully, the Harvest Conference School of Ministry has been established as a convenient, local alternative to receive one's theological education, especially helpful to bivocational and second career students. Over the last five years, over 50 people together took a total of over 300 of the required courses plus electives. Recent changes to the core curriculum have come about with the establishment of the Center for Pastoral Formation, the denominational credentialing office directed by Dr. Steven Tungate and Rev. Jennifer Wilson. These changes (including a plan to offer every course twice in a three-year cycle) will be implemented in the 2024-2025 conference year. This next year (2023-2024) will be used to get everybody caught up to the new schedule. Dr. Larry Bailey will lead the School into this next phase of development.

Pam Bailey will be the new Director of Ministerial Candidates and registrar for the School. She will be an integral part of each candidate's journey, guiding them through Local and Conference Ministerial Candidacy. One day a year all Local Ministerial Candidates will meet with the MEG Board for coaching and review of their progress. Also all Conference Ministerial Candidates will meet annually with the MEG Board for similar guidance, but more intently as they near ordination.

Theological education is vital for the ongoing ministry of our conference, and we should encourage anyone feeling the urge to prepare for ministry to enroll in courses and to pray for their expanding vision of God's will. Thank you for the opportunity to participate with such promising leaders and to be a part of the future of Harvest Conference and its place in God's kingdom.

Rebecca Sawyer

Director of Ministerial Candidates