

Search Committee Endorsement of Candidate

The Search Committee is extremely pleased to bring the Rev. Chrissy Westbury to the Presbytery as its candidate for the Associate Presbyter position of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. In reviewing the job description, what leapt out to the committee was the importance of relational work. The pandemic has taken a toll on all relationships, including within the Presbytery. Ties have been frayed. Churches have expressed a feeling of being disconnected from the Presbytery and each other. As we emerge from the most difficult days of the pandemic, rebuilding relationships and strengthening bonds is a high priority for the Presbytery. This priority was at the forefront of the Committee's deliberations. The Committee also recognized the person fulfilling this position must be able to contribute to the Matthew 25 commitments the Presbytery has undertaken, particularly around racial justice and reconciliation.

The Committee believes the Rev. Chrissy Westbury is that person. In her application, she stated, "I feel called to a place where I can be part of a collaborative team, where leadership is shared and gifts are identified, honored, and put to work. And I feel called to a place where I can use my gifts of extroversion and genuine love and curiosity for people to build bridges and forge connections."

Chrissy has already offered her gifts to the Presbytery in her work with the CPM (the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.) She is broadening her knowledge by pursuing a certificate in executive leadership. She has a good grasp of the variety of ministry contexts within the Presbytery and is comfortable moving within them.

The committee was amazed, as we moved through our interview with Chrissy, how her vision of the position and the committee's were so aligned. It almost seemed as if she had seen the interview questions before we spoke. There was tremendous energy and excitement in the air. The committee took some time to pray and consider everything we heard from both candidates who were interviewed. When we came together again, the same energy and enthusiasm were there. The vote was unanimous. The Committee wholeheartedly endorses the Rev. Chrissy Westbury.

Faithfully,
Rev. Christine Barnes
Moderator