

**Presbytery of San Gabriel
Commission on Preparation for Ministry
September 16, 2017**

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry met on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at Community, San Marino; a quorum was present. The Commission recommends the following:

For Action:

- That Certified Ready Candidate Amberleigh Kirk Lee be examined for ordination. Ally has received a call to serve as Temporary Associate Pastor for Knox Presbyterian Church of Pasadena.
- That Jason Yim be enrolled as an Inquirer. Jason is a member of New Hope, Pasadena.
- That David Avramovich be removed from the process. David is a member of Community, San Marino.

Ally Lee
Autobiography

I was born in Nuremberg, West Bavaria to Capt. John B Kirk and Wanda Carol Kirk in 1984. My father was stationed in Germany as a part of the Army Corps of Engineers. My parents were nearing the end of their tour in Germany and three months after I was born returned to the United States. I am their only child. I am also the only grandchild on both sides.

We moved to Colorado for my father to complete his Ph.D. At the end of my father's program, doctors found a tumor on my mother's brainstem. I was four years old when she had surgery to have it removed. The surgery was successful, but my mother lost a lot of her fine motor skills and her short-term memory was impaired. My mother was in recovery for several months after the surgery.

About six months later we moved from Colorado to Texas. About every four years we moved. First we moved to another city in Texas, two cities in Oklahoma, and then Georgia. During this time we attended church infrequently. I was raised Southern Baptist and despite our irregular attendance my faith was important to me from a young age. When we move to Georgia, I choose the church that we attended. Once I was able to drive I was there whenever the doors were open. I was a leader in the youth group all through high school and volunteered with other ministries of the church. In youth group, I sensed a call to serve in full time ministry. In the Southern Baptist church the ordination of women is not allowed, so mentors and leaders encouraged me to pursue missions. Missions was deemed more appropriate for women because it often had to do with leading other women or children rather than men.

When I graduated from high school, I decided to attend Samford University in Birmingham, AL. Both of my grandparents had gone to school there. I majored in International Relations and French with a minor in Classics and three-quarters of a minor in Music. I began pursuing missions opportunities with favor in college. My first summer I spent time working with a French speaking college ministry in Montreal. The following summer, I went to Swaziland for two months. In Swaziland, I worked at an orphan center and with a local church distributing food, building small cooking rooms, and visiting patients in the hospital. The following summer, I worked for a ministry in Atlanta working with women who wanted to leave the adult entertainment industry (prostitution and strip clubs). I ran several donor events helping the ministry partner with local churches to gain volunteers for job training workshops, mentor relationships, and housing opportunities. I spent the following summer in Northern Ireland working in low income housing neighborhoods running sports and Bible camps. After so many missions experiences, I discerned that I was called to work in the local church, but I did not feel free to pursue that call.

After graduating college, I started seminary at Beeson Divinity School. I intended to pursue a Ph.D, and teach. After a year, the school was not a good fit, so I decided to transfer to Fuller Theological Seminary. I appreciated Fuller's commitment to educating women for ordained positions. I also wanted to further my education in family systems, so that I would be able to work with families in the church.

During my second year at Fuller, I married Brian Lee. We met in college and dated for four years, moving across the United States to attend Fuller together. A few months after our wedding, I started working at Knox Presbyterian Church because it offered an opportunity to provide for us while we both pursued Masters of Divinity. In the process of working at Knox, I discerned a call to ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church.

I have worked at Knox for the past seven years. During that time I have completed two internships in the church, my M.Div (2013), CPE at Arcadia Methodist, and I am certified ready for ordination by the Presbytery of San Gabriel. I have worked as the Office Manager at Knox as well as in various part time positions on the program staff. Currently, I am the Director of Christian Education. I oversee Adult Education and Children's Ministries along with Congregational Life and Connections. My experiences at Knox and as a chaplain at Arcadia Methodist have developed my sense of call and sense of pastoral authority.

These past seven years have also had some personal challenges. In 2014, my husband Brian was accepted to the Ph.D. program at Princeton University. We decided to live bi-costally for two years while he completed his coursework. We would see each other every three to five weeks. In 2016, anticipating that Brian would be moving back to California full time, we were excited to get pregnant. I miscarried after 10 weeks. We then discovered that I have a malformation of my uterus that has required two surgeries so far. We continue to hope that we will have biological children. We have also always hoped to adopt children, so we are taking the first steps of that process this fall.

Amberleigh K. Lee, Statement of Faith

Our eternal God, the Sovereign Lord and the source of life, is three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal in power and united in purpose. Our just God is full of mercy and never ceases to be faithful to us.

Out of God's own indescribable beauty, the earth and everything in it was created. Women and men are formed in the image of God and intended to dwell with God. However, our first parents disobeyed. They lost sight of what they were created to be. We have inherited their brokenness. We stumble about in anger, indifference, and self-aggrandizement. We are imprisoned by systems of injustice and oppression, and we perpetuate these systems. We are unfaithful to God and abuse the image of God in others and in ourselves.

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the Word of God who was with God in the beginning and who became human. Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God. Jesus has come near to us and knows the human experience directly. He proclaimed the way of faith. He lifted up those on the outside of society, and called us to return to the practices of God's economy: justice, mercy, and peace. Jesus brought the good news that the estranged relationship between God and us could be restored. He lived a morally perfect life, and yet he was sentenced to death and crucified. God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, defeating death, breaking the power of evil, and setting us free from the chains that kept us from relationship with God. Jesus' death and resurrection satisfied God's justice and demonstrated the depth of God's love.

The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, the giver of life. The Spirit enlivens us and enables us to turn to God in belief and follow the way of faith taught by Jesus. Thus begins the end of our estrangement from God. As those enlivened by the Spirit, God cleanses us forever and holds us fast in love. We still need to heal from our patterns of selfishness. Our healing is a continual process of transformation.

By the power of the Spirit moving in Jesus' disciples the Church emerged—broadening the people of God to include all the nations as adopted sons and daughters of God's household. The Church acting as the body of Christ in the world enacts Jesus' work of reconciliation and peacemaking. We, the daughters and sons, gather to worship God. The Church proclaims the testimony of Scripture, receives the gifts of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and gently maintains the order of its members. The Holy Spirit makes God's grace known to us in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism seals and marks us as the covenant people of God. The washing with water signifies the cleansing and the freshness of our new life. Eating the bread and partaking of the cup of the Lord's Supper reminds us of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and assures us of our reconciliation with God. As we share this meal together, we remember that the people of God have met to share this meal across time and space and hope for the day when we will all gather to eat together at Jesus' heavenly table.

Inspired by God, scribes chronicled God's work of establishing a chosen people. That work began with the call of Abram and Sarai through whom God promised to make people. From the time of delivery from bondage in Egypt, through the period of the monarchs, and the time of the exile God demonstrates faithfulness to these promises. God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ is the ultimate demonstration of this steady faithfulness. The Spirit guided the Church to bind together the writings of the Old and New Testaments as one book, authoritative and instructive for knowledge of God and for living as God's people.

There will come a day when Jesus Christ returns to earth. When Jesus comes evil will no longer wreak havoc in the world. Creation will be renewed. We will be raised in resurrected bodies that will not decay or die. And we will dwell with God. This future rule of God is the culmination of God's work through history. God's work in our own lives is the first fruit of the final perfection, so we live joyfully and faithfully now. In the time in between, we model God's justice and mercy caring for others and the earth. We live expectantly waiting for the return of our Lord Jesus.