

**Report of Seth Allen Raymond's
Congregational Discernment Committee to
the Rector and Vestry of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
22 July 2008**

Seth Allen Raymond's Congregational Discernment Committee (CDC) respectfully submits this report to the Rector and Vestry of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church at the Vestry's regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, 22 July 2008. The Commission on Ministry has recommended that the report discuss the three topics set out below.

1. the process of discernment

Seth's CDC completed training in the recommended discernment process in April of 2007, and in the ensuing 14 months has held 18 meetings. The length of time – both the 16 months of the process and the many hours spent together in prayer, worship, study and conversation -- were valuable to all of us.

The members of the committee are Ken Biornstad, Jen Carr, Buck Frye, Ed Kase, Mollie Lee, Nicholas Lee, Charley Noecker, Robert Pomeroy, William Sweeney, and Jan Ydstie-Roy. In addition, Mary Elizabeth Terry and David Dolph both served on Seth's CDC, but each resigned from active participation after moving away from the Boulder area. Ken Biornstad was on leave from Seth's CDC for several months while he was out of the Boulder area.

The training and curriculum provided by the Commission on Ministry were new to us all and proved to be very helpful. The curriculum provided structure, taught us all a great deal about the process of seeking holy orders and about the meaning of being a Christian, both lay and ordained. The materials also provided us with an opportunity to learn first hand Seth's gifts of leading worship and of teaching, as well the details of his background, gifts, and limitations and the context of his life.

The CDC has a diverse composition which we think has been beneficial to our work. In addition to parishioners and Canterbury members, we also had a member from St. John's Boulder who is also a member of the Canterbury Board of Stewards, as well as two members who respectively are Presbyterian and Lutheran. Member's ages spanned a range of more than five decades. We benefited from the wide range of experiences, backgrounds and styles that the group members brought to the process.

In addition to the formally outline process, two of our 18 meetings were devoted to prayerful discernment. In the first, we reached a consensus that Seth is definitely capable and qualified to pursue a path to ordination. In the second we reached a consensus that Seth is called specifically to the ordained priesthood.

Overall, we emerge from the process with a humble appreciation for the power of the Diocesan training and curriculum to lead us in a process that has clearly demonstrated the working of the Holy Spirit and that has effected a growth in spirit and a deepening

understanding in all of us. We believe that the experience we have had in this process of discernment indicates that similar processes of prayerful discernment may be beneficial in the life of or as ministries of St. Aidan's and Canterbury.

2. the outcomes of that process

Seth's CDC believes that Seth is called to a Christian life of service in the ministry of the ordained priesthood, for which he is prepared and equipped appropriately for this stage of the process. Our process has explored in conversation and prayer the possibility that Seth may be called to a life of Christian service in a lay or diaconal capacity and we have reached consensus that Seth's call is to the ordained priesthood.

We further believe that the call of Seth and Elizabeth to serve in Taiwan for a year is an integral and necessary part of this process.

3. any further recommendations in the development of the aspirant's ministry

We believe Seth's CDC should meet with Seth (at least once) after he and Elizabeth return from Taiwan.

We encourage the Vestry to pray for God's peace and direction in the life of the aspirant, as we ourselves have committed to do.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ken Bjornstad
Jen Carr
Buck Frye
Ed Kase
Mollie Lee
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Charley Noecker
Robert Pomeroy
William Sweeney
Jan Ydstie-Roy*