

**(CPM) - Continuing Preparation for Ministry Pod Report - Northern Plains Presbytery
October Report (Pod did not meet this Fall)**

Members: Rev. Dr. Spencer S. Homan, Rev. Ruth Sanders, Jamie Norstog [CLP], Erik Swee [RE], Tom Cummings [RE]

The Pod had no business to attend to this Fall, so we canceled our regularly scheduled meeting.

The Pod presents Carrie Lauber to be examined on the floor of Presbytery to be commissioned as a lay pastor following the guidelines in the book of order:

G-2.1002

The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery.

Please refer to Carrie's statement of faith attached to this report.

The next meeting of CPM is scheduled for March 6th, 2027, at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks at 9:00 am (also on Zoom).

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Spencer S. Homan, Chair of CPM

Action Items for Presbytery:

Motion to examine and approve Carrie Lauber to be commissioned as a lay pastor.

Statement of Faith

I believe in one triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory, distinct yet of one substance, existing in eternal communion of love. From this divine life flows creation, redemption, and sustaining grace. Through Christ, by the Spirit, we are invited into that communion.

I believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, whose beauty and imagination are revealed in creation and in humanity. I experience God's presence vividly in nature, where awe quiets chaos and reminds me of God's nearness. Being made in the image of God means every person reflects God's character and carries inherent worth and dignity. The image of God reveals sacred interconnectedness, binding us to God and one another. As stewards of creation, we are called to care for the earth, cultivate the fruits of the Spirit, and honor life in all its forms.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, fully divine and fully human, who reveals the heart of the Father in embodied love. In His life, Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God, stood with the poor and oppressed, and modeled mercy and humility. Through His death, He bore the weight of human sin and reconciled us to God. In His resurrection, God's victory over sin and death was made known. Salvation is a gift of grace received through faith. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and drawn into new life. Redemption transforms our story; through grace, what is broken is made new.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who applies Christ's saving work and sustains the Church. The Spirit awakens faith, convicts us of sin, comforts us in grief, and sanctifies us for God's purposes. Through the Spirit, Scripture becomes living Word, the Church is formed and guided, and believers are shaped into the likeness of Christ.

I believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and are the authoritative witness to Jesus Christ. Through them, the Spirit speaks, reforms, and instructs the Church, calling us to covenant faithfulness under Christ's lordship.

I believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Sacraments instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church as means of grace. In Baptism, we are claimed by God and incorporated into the covenant community. In the Lord's Supper, Christ is truly present by the Spirit, nourishing us and uniting us as one body.

I believe the Church is the body of Christ in the world, called to worship God, proclaim the gospel, administer the sacraments, and participate in God's mission of reconciliation. Though imperfect, the Church is continually reformed by the Word and Spirit and sent to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Carrie Lauber

I believe our response to God's grace is repentance, trust, gratitude, and lifelong discipleship. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone, and faith expresses itself in love of neighbor, stewardship of creation, humility, and obedience. Through the Spirit's sanctifying work, we are formed into people who bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.