

Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • 8 OLIVE STREET • MILL VALLEY, CA. 94941 • 388-5540

L. William Eichhorn, Minister

Michael Kortright, Student Minister

Oct. 14, 1977

Reverend Harold W. Heckman
252 West Spain St.
Sonoma, Ca. 95476

Dear Harold,

I am writing to inform you of some developments related to the Ecclesiastical Council our congregation has requested from the Golden Gate Association. Since you are the Registrar, I am assuming you will pass this information along to other Association officers.

After the fall meeting of the Association the candidates discussed with me and members of our Board of Directors the questions that were being raised by some of the Association about the understanding of "collective ordination." The dialogue has been helpful in clarifying the vision of ministry we are trying to share and both the candidates and the church board feel the phrase, "ordained collectively", which was suggested from the floor of the meeting, does carry the meaning we are trying to communicate. Our request to the Association is then as follows: We, the Board of Directors of The Community Church of Mill Valley, request the Golden Gate Association to meet in ecclesiastical council on November 20 at our church for the purpose of examining the following individuals that they may be ordained collectively to the Christian ministry: Loey Powell, Stacy Cusulos, and Jody Parsons. Susan Cutahall has decided to pursue ordination where she has been working in the Oregon-North Idaho Conference of the UCC, and where she has been licensed by that Conference.

We have some questions about process, Hal, and it would be helpful to have the thinking of the Association officers of these matters.

1. When will the call for the council be sent out to the Association churches? Our interview with Conference Committee On The Ministry will be on November 4.
2. When will the credentials committee want to meet with the candidates? In the steps you outlined at the Association meeting you mentioned that the committee would want to meet with the candidates prior to the day of the Council. In the past this meeting has often been held on the day of the Council just prior to the beginning of the Council. That would be more convenient as far as schedule goes, but the candidates are willing to meet before that date if the committee wishes.

3. Are we correct in using the outline for the ordination paper that is in the Conference Manual on the Ministry (page 9)? The candidates would like to make individual statements on their personal growth in Christian experience and their understanding of their call to the ministry. (Parts a and b of the outline.) They would like to have their statement of Christian beliefs and their understanding of preaching the Gospel, of administering the sacraments, and of the nature of the Church and its mission be in the form of a joint statement. Is this format acceptable to the Association officers?

Thank you for your assistance, Harold, with these important matters. If I can be of help to you or the Executive Committee, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bill Eichhorn

LWE:ps

cc. Reverend Mineo Katagiri