

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 Robert F. Richter, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Ministry
777 Oakland Ave.
Oakland, Ca. 94611

Dear Bob,

I am writing to inform you and the Committee On The Ministry of some developments related to the Ordination process of the members of our congregation which will be coming before the Committee on November 4.

After the fall meeting of the Golden Gate Association the candidates discussed with me and members of our Board of Directors the questions that were being raised by some members 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 Committee On The Ministry is as follows: We, the Board of Directors of The Community Church of Mill Valley, request the Committee On The Ministry to examine the following individuals for the purpose of recommending them to the Golden Gate Association for Ordination collectively. The persons are: Stacy Cusulos, Loey Powell, and Jody Parsons. Susan Cutshall has decided to pursue ordination in the Oregon-North Idaho Conference to the UCC where she is working and has been licensed by that Conference. As you can see, our process is an evolving one, and we hope this way of stating our request is understandable and acceptable to the committee.

While we were at the clergy convocation, Bob, I did not want to burden you with "agenda" and I hope the few days there were helpful to your recovery process. We do have some questions about the format of the meeting on November 4. The candidates are using the outline for ordination paper given on page 9 of the Conference Manual on the Ministry. They 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 committee?

We appreciate the amount of time you have set aside for the interview. Can you tell us what the committee's expectations are as to how the time will be utilized?

Would the committee like to have any of the members of the Board of Directors of Community Church present for any part of the interview process?

I want to thank you and the committee members for the support you have given to the candidates. There have been many questions to respond to and numerous procedural matters to work out with the Association. While you and I have discussed the arrangements with the Committee On The Ministry, I have delayed writing this formal letter to the committee until some of these matters were cleared up in the Association. Thank you for your patience and your assistance.

If I can be of further help, Bob, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bill Eichhorn

LWE:ps

cc: Reverend Mineo Katagiri