

Oakland CA.
Feb. 11, 1978

L. William Eichorn, Minister
The Community Church, UCC
8 Olive Street
Mill Valley, CA. 94941

Dear Bill,

As you know, the Committee on the Ministry of the Northern California Conference of the United Church of Christ has met to examine Stacy Cusulos, Jody Parsons, and Loey Powell as to their fitness for the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ. Our examination, which was made at the request of the community Church of Mill Valley, is now concluded and so I am writing to give you our recommendation in respect to each and all of these candidates for ordination.

I am pleased to report that at the meeting of the Committee held on November 4, 1977 the following action was taken:

"Stacy Cusulos. The committee heard Stacy's paper, entered into conversation with her and then voted to recommend to the Mill Valley Community Church that it request the Golden Gate Association to call an Ecclesiastical Council for examination for ordination."

"Jody Parsons. The committee heard Jody's paper, entered into conversation with her and then voted to recommend to the Mill Valley Community Church that it request the Golden Gate Association to call an ecclesiastical Council for examination for ordination."

I am pleased, further, to report that at the meeting of the Committee held on February 10, 1978 the following action was taken:

"Loey Powell. We recommend to the Mill Valley Community Church that it request the Golden Gate Association to meet as an ecclesiastical Council to examine Loey Powell for ordination upon ratification of her Call by the Board of Directors of the Center for Environmental Action."

In addition, at the last mentioned meeting, the committee passed the following motion:

"We bless and affirm the collective process that we've seen in these three candidates as being integral and appropriate to ministry."

May I add that at the Feb. 10 meeting one of the members of the Committee (Nancy Smith) reflected the feeling of many of the members when she said:

"Those of us on the Committee who have been in on the deliberations when the five women first came to us about a year ago have experienced the idea that they presented to us-- namely, that they wanted their process toward ordination to be an embodiment of their idea of collective community."

"It has meant that they have had to communicate to us what that meant to them. It has meant that we have had to really listen, to stretch our understandings of the meanings of their words and their actions.

"It has meant that we have had to review our understandings of our own procedures and processes. We have all had to be willing to change as the situation has changed. The end result has been that we have all grown and feel blessed by the experience."

Let me conclude by saying that if the examination by the Golden Gate Association is sustained it is my personal feeling that the service of ordination ought to find a way to celebrate and affirm the collective sense of ministry which these candidates have experienced.

Wishing you grace, mercy, and peace, I am

Sincerely,

Robert F. Richter, Jr.
Robert F. Richter, Jr.

Chairman

Committee on the Ministry
Northern California
Conference, UCC