

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**  
**Presbytery of San Francisco**  
**September 9, 2017**

**ACTION Items for Discussion –**

**1. REQUEST TO ENROLL AS CANDIDATE**

**Chris Baldwin – Lafayette Orinda, Lafayette**

**MOTION:** That Chris Baldwin, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, effective May 3, 2016.

*Notes: According to our policies, Presbytery shall examine the Inquirer with respect to only his Christian faith, forms of ministry undertaken and motives for seeking the ministry. As an introduction, Chris is presenting a paper on his motivation for ministry and Christian faith journey. See [CPM 2 - 1](#).*

**INFORMATION**

1. ***Thanksgivings:*** The following persons agreed to serve as **readers** for the PC(USA) Standard Ordination Exams this year, Class of 2017:

RE Deborah Romani, Valley, Portola Valley (August & November dates)  
RE Virginia Smyly, New Liberation, San Francisco (August & November dates)  
RE Marcus Jung, Mission Bay, San Francisco (August & November dates)  
MSW Christopher Peterson, MAL (August & November dates)

2. ***Celebrations:*** The following persons previously under care of the Presbytery of San Francisco have received calls and were **recently ordained**:

- a. Koan Shin Choi – ordained May, 2017 as Tentmaking Pastor at Good News Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, CA and Missionary in Africa
- b. Cindy Towle Kephart – ordained June, 2017 as Interim Pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Lodi, CA
- c. Joel Moody – ordained July, 2017 as Temporary Associate Pastor at Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX
- d. Janice Kamikawa – ordained August, 2017 as chaplain to Kaiser/UC Davis/Juvenile Hall in Sacramento, CA

**Chris Baldwin**  
*Brief Biography*

My name is Chris Baldwin and I am seeking to be a faithful and loving man of God. One of the greatest joys of my life is my family. I have an incredible wife, Carly, who is a physical therapist at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland and we have been married for 8 years. We have a 2 ¾ year-old son, Reed, and are expecting our second child (a girl!) this November. Together, we are learning new life lessons of partnership, faithfulness, and love as we journey on this adventure of parenthood. My faith journey began in a bit of an uncommon, though admittedly not unique way. Our family did not actively attend church, but we occasionally attended Christmas/Easter services. My introduction to participate in Christian community came by way of an invitation from my older sister, Brianne. When Bri was in High School she fell in love with a boy who attended a youth group at North Orange Christian Church near our home. She invited my twin brother, Ryan, and me to an "All-Nighter" event where the plan was to stay up all night riding amusement park rides at Castle Park in Riverside, CA, and then ride water slides until 5:00am at Wild Rivers in Irvine, CA. As a 13 year-old, that offer was too good to take a pass on. I took the bait and agreed to go. As funny as it might sound, that All-Nighter was my first experience of Christian community. After the event, my youth pastor invited me to join a small group with other high school guys that met weekly in his home. Our group talked about faith, studied the Bible, prayed together, and had fun. I later decided to take the church's membership and discipleship classes to continue growing in my knowledge about this church "thing." After completing the course, I agreed to be baptized at a church worship service. From that point forward, I devoted my life to following Jesus Christ. God works in wonderfully surprising ways; through invitations from older sisters, discipleship from loving youth leaders, and a church that creates spaces of meaning, belonging, and hospitality.

My sense of motivation for seeking ordination as a Teaching Elder in the PCUSA is founded on my vocational call to "build people up to send them out" and I enjoy living into that call from a Christian education and formation perspective. I believe it is the responsibility of the Teaching Elder to equip the saints for the work of ministry, building up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12), and I hope to do that through a discipleship lens inviting people to grow in community, discover their giftedness, and serve. I care deeply about the ways in which the church educates worshippers and creates opportunities for discipleship.

I have been fortunate to experience many different ministry roles in the church that have affirmed my sense of motivation for seeking ordination in the PCUSA. I explored various domestic (food pantry, abused women & children's shelters, community clean up days, car washes) and international (Amor Ministries in Mexico & Global Mission Fellowship in Haiti) service opportunities in my youth group. I fell in love with ministry while serving at Sonshine Specialized Camping Ministries – Youth Houseboat Camp while in college. I learned to trust and love God with my mind while earning a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Azusa Pacific University. I learned the intricacies and challenges of loving youth and families while serving as a Director of Student Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Irvine, CA. Princeton Theological Seminary formed me to be an innovative and creative leader shepherding me to embrace my love for Christian education and formation with dual M.Div and M.A. degrees. I wrestled with social, global, and political justice as a community organizer in the barrios of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Most recently, I have been serving at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church as the Associate Director for Children's Ministry crafting leadership and volunteer strategies for 200+ volunteers. Last year, I stepped into the new role of Director of Community Engagement overseeing the membership, fellowship, connecting/equipping, small groups, and pastoral support ministries. These experiences and many others have all contributed to my sense of call to build people up to send them out.

As a recent event, I have been working on men's ministry offerings to "men with young families" (ages 30-50). This demographic is largely underserved in our community and we had targeted them as an identified group to focus outreach to. In November, I invited men to a small group study and we surprisingly had 15 participate. In a remarkable story of growth and connection, we have completed 4 studies and grew attendance to 25 men. This experience has reminded me of how much I enjoy teaching, leading, and crafting spaces of meaning, belonging, and hospitality. I have charisma and gifts of caring for others that have helped to continue affirming my sense of call.