

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

**Report to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos**

**May 17, 2008**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) has met twice since the last regular meeting of the Presbytery with a quorum present.

CPM presents Mr. **Jeffrey Robert Wagner** to the Presbytery and recommends that he be examined and approved for ordination.

Mr. Wagner is a member of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, and a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary. He has satisfactorily completed the preparation for ordained ministry.



***Statement of Faith***

***Jeff Wagner***

***I Believe...***

I believe in the Triune God- Father, Son and Spirit, the one and only eternal God; Lord over all. God is intrinsically holy, loving and the source of all that is good. God's character and nature, intention for humanity and plan of salvation are revealed by the Spirit in the inspired, authoritative Word of God.

For God's glory, by sheer grace, God created the heavens and the earth through the eternal Word. Unique among creation, man and woman were made in God's image. They were created to reflect God's own love in all relationships and in their stewardship of the earth. Humanity was tempted by Satan and, using free will, rebelled against the Lord. A world created for love became full of violence, alienation, perversion and sins of every kind. All humans are now dead in sin and estranged from God, unable to fix the fallen human condition. Even as the world seemed to spin out of control, God never ceased directing all creation toward His will.

The Old Testament points to the fulfillment of God's plan of redemption and restoration through the Messiah. At the fullness of time, the Word became flesh in the person of Jesus. Jesus, fully human and fully divine, lived as the perfect image bearer, demonstrating complete faithfulness and submission to God's will. In Jesus, God's intrinsic character, overflowing love, and plan of salvation were fully revealed. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, gave himself as a sacrifice on the cross for the salvation of humanity. On the cross Jesus took our sin upon himself, justifying us before God, so that there is now "no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus". God raised Jesus from the dead, authenticating his work by conquering death. Christ will one day come again to make all things right.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to respond to God's free gift of grace, and are baptized together into the body of Christ. There is only one true church, stretching across time, geography, race and culture. By God's Spirit both men and women are equipped to carry out God's mission of love in the world:

By being ambassadors of reconciliation and witnesses of Jesus Christ; by being a community of authentic worship and intentional discipleship; by praying for a broken world; by working for social righteousness; by unmasking the idolatry in culture; by

stewarding properly all of God's gifts.

Through the Spirit, God nourishes and equips the church in the faithful preaching of the Word, the proper administering of the sacraments, and in each believer's use of the various spiritual gifts. It is through the preached Word that God calls men and women to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave the sacraments as signs and seals for the benefit of the church. In baptism people are engrafted into the body of Christ, renouncing sin and following Jesus. Baptism proclaims that our old self died with Christ and that through the power of the resurrection we have been raised to live as a part of his body. In the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the church is spiritually nourished by Christ's presence, remembering and celebrating the new covenant established through his sacrifice.

Despite the evil and brokenness in our world, God is active in carrying out the work of the Kingdom. And despite my own brokenness, I am called to follow Jesus, empowered by the Spirit to minister in a hurting world needing redemption.