

STATEMENT OF MOTIVATION

May 21, 2022

Michael Mahan

My motivation to become an Inquirer in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) is precisely what one would think; I desire to learn more about what it means to pursue and accept a calling to be ordained as a Teaching Elder in the Church. I wandered in my faith practice for many years before recommitting my life to Jesus Christ about eight years ago. Since that time, I have increasingly felt God calling me to serve him in deeper ways. Not coincidentally, I have been led back to the Presbyterian Church and into the pursuit of the Master of Divinity degree at Fuller Theological Seminary. Almost daily, I feel that God is propelling me on this path to serve him in ordained service. Specifically, I feel a connection to our Presbyterian theology and polity—I am a good fit to contribute to God’s mission in our Church and the Church is a good fit for my beliefs and faith practices. I anticipate that the Inquiry period will provide me with the opportunity to gain more specific knowledge about the ways of our Church in order to confirm whether ordination is the path to which God has called me. I look forward to getting to know and learn from the talented people in our Presbytery.

Veronica Chisholm

My sense of call to ministry has been very evident in my life. I was involved with missions and ministry at my church in Brazil as a teenager so much so that I felt strongly that God was calling me to be a missionary after high school. Instead, because of my father’s desire for me to go to college I went and realized I had a love for the sciences. After receiving my master’s in biology, I got married, moved to the United States and I taught middle and high school science for nine years. During this time, I was involved with helping my husband with youth ministry at our church. I began to realize that God was leading me to devote more time to ministry. In 2017 I became children’s director at our former church, and I realized that God had been preparing me through all of my experiences with church, education and teaching to bring these to full time ministry. I am answering to call to use my gifts to lead people (children-adults) on how they can use their lives to glorify God.