

Candidates and Interns: Reports for February 2015 Presbytery

Name	Start Date	Mentor	Church	Intern Report?
Bert, Luke	08-14	Ken Pierce	Trinity	x
Brent, Kyle	11-13	Matt Giesman	Providence	x
Brignac, James	08-14	<i>Candidate Only</i>		N/A
Brock, Cory	05-12	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	
Brown, Chris	05-13	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	x
Bullock, Nick	08-11	Matt Giesman	Providence	x
Canevaro, Addison	11-14	<i>Candidate Only</i>		N/A
Duhs, Seth	11-14	Robert Lane	1 st Madison	x
Forrest, Anthony	11-14	Michael Campbell	Redeemer	x
Hammond, Ian	11-14	Rob Hill	Pinehaven	
Irving, David	02-13	Bebo Elkin	Raymond	oral
Kahan, Devin	02-13	Brad Mercer	Highlands	oral
Lee, Nathan	02-13	Rob Hill	Pinehaven	completed
Meenan, Billy	02-13	Brad Mercer	Highlands	oral
Meyer, Greg	02-13	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	oral
Morgan, Davis	08-14	<i>Candidate Only</i>		N/A
Morris, Sean	05-12	<i>Candidate Only</i>		N/A
Owens, Zack	11-11	Ryan Dean	Redeemer	x
Phipps, Kevin	05-12	Ligon Duncan	1 st Jackson	x
Pillsbury, Justin	02-13	Ralph Kelley	1 st Jackson	oral
Santos, Danillo	05-13	Carl Kalberkamp	Pear Orchard	
Suber, Aaron	05-14	<i>Candidate Only</i>		N/A
Tisby, Jemar	11-12	Michael Campbell	Redeemer	x
Williams, Josh	11-10	Richard Wiman	1 st Belzoni	

Luke Bert

Date: __ November 19, 2014 _____

Name of intern: _____ Luke B. Bert _____

Name of mentor: _____ Ken Peirce TE _____

Church where you are serving as an intern: __ Trinity _____

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

My responsibilities have been divided between work with the Community Builders Sunday School class and the youth group. For the Sunday School class I have taught a class on evangelism to peoples of other

faiths with two other seminarians. My topics included eastern religions and postmodernism. For the Youth group I have assisted the group leaders in retreats and Wednesday night activities.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Pastor Ken has been on Sabbatical this quarter since I became an intern. We hope to begin our meetings in earnest soon. In the meantime we have discussed my ministry plans and he has offered advice on how I can serve at trinity.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

In the Sunday school class I was able to test my knowledge of other religions and apply that specifically to the task of evangelism. My call to ministry has remained the same in that I feel called to use both academics and youth ministry to help build up the church in rigorously reformed theology. The goal of this is specifically to train up youth who are able to deal with doubt that exists in the world, in their classes, and in themselves as they prepare for adult life.

Kyle Brent

Date: 12/2/2014

Name of intern: Kyle Brent

Name of mentor: Matt Geisman

Church where you are serving as an intern: Providence Presbyterian

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

This quarter, I have continued preaching on rotation once a month on Sunday evenings. Matt, others, and I have been following the outline of the Heidelberg Catechism and have made it almost to the end of the Ten Commandments. Furthermore, we have started doing visitation with the shut ins at Providence.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

My meetings with Matt have consisted of discussions based on our reading of Johannes G. Vos's commentary on the Larger Catechism. We also have been discussing some and exciting possibilities opening up for me both in ministry and in my personal life

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

The past two or so sermons I've preached at Providence have been difficult for me and have really stretched me as a preacher. In my preaching, following the structure of Heidelberg, I've had to preaching the second question on the third commandment which deals with oaths and vows. Similarly, the following sermon was on the seventh commandment. My natural tendency is to spiritualize applications. However, given the prevalence of erroneous views of divorce and sexual deviancy in our culture, it was quite necessary to make my applications more pointed and specific, though in a manner which was decent and orderly. I was very worried in how to deal with and apply those texts, but the Lord granted me grace to do so, and thankfully, according to many in the congregation, He used me for their edification.

In light of this, my sense of call is strong. Seeing that the Lord can use such a feeble and worrisome individual as me for the instruction, correction, and building up of His Church is a great encouragement to me to continue on in pursuing the call to the ministry.

Chris Brown

Date: __12/1/2014_____

Name of intern: __Christopher Brown_____

Name of mentor: __Billy Dempsey_____

Church where you are serving as an intern: __First Presbyterian Church, Jackson_____

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter: Visit the sick in hospitals, visit shut-ins in nursing homes and in their homes, teach Sunday School classes, teach a Bible study in Midtown, assist at funeral visitations, attend a Bible study at the Orchard, attend a monthly worship service at St. Catherine's.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

We meet together and discuss both my remaining duties for my Presbytery internship, as well as my spiritual estate. So far I've benefited from my relationship with my mentor in that he has goaded me along the process of fulfilling my requirements, and has also kept me accountable.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

My gifts of teaching and preaching are certainly being tested by practice, but also I've seen my patience, love, and humility tried in my times of visitation. So far in this period of trial and self-examination I still sense the call to pastoral ministry, and hope that my desire to pastor grows even more as I proceed.

Anthony Forrest

Date: 11/20/14

Name of intern: Anthony Forrest

Name of mentor: Dr. Michael Campbell

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church, PCA

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

(My internship does not officially begin until January 5, 2015.)

The internship will consist of coteaching a Sunday school class, serving in a ministry area based on the church's need (Mission to Broadmoor), leadership in the Sunday worship gathering, attending weekly staff meetings, and going into the church offices weekly for ministry preparation, planning, meeting with Mike Campbell, and session/diaconate meeting attendance, when scheduled.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

The meetings with my mentor will pertain to ministry responsibilities for a PCA minister/pastor and personal spiritual growth. I believe this time to be crucial in not only my growth as a leader who knows the office from the daily duty side, but it will also impact the normalcy with which I later depend on God in and for all of ministry. And with this regular meeting with my mentor, I believe I will further benefit from my mentor by being able to grow in ways that call me away from my natural proclivities and

preferences where necessary.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and selfexamination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

My expectation going into this internship is certainly to be tested in terms of gifts and graces from God. This period of opportunity will help to know my gifts in a much more clear way than can be known otherwise. I anticipate this period potentially being very instrumental in pointing me toward strengths to a degree that will strongly aid in my understanding of what it is that I am burdened and gifted to do in ministry. It will also reveal weaknesses that I quite possibly have not considered and expected.

Seth Duhs

Date: ___11/19/2014_____

Name of intern: ___Seth Duhs_____

Name of mentor: ___Bob Lane_____

Church where you are serving as an intern: ___First Presbyterian Church of Madison_____

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

My internship just started at the last Presbytery meeting on November the 4th. So far I have been maintaining my regular duties of being a Youth Director. These duties are: teaching Sunday school and Sunday Night Youth, meeting with a different student each week, visiting their schools and sports activities, and hosting 1-2 weekend events for the Youth program per month.

I am also preaching on the RTS Preaching circuit once a month and am assisting in any pastoral duties or worship anytime Bob needs me.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

So far our meetings have been very beneficial and he is definitely interested in my progress as becoming a minister in the PCA. He is intentional in checking in with me and seeing how the youth program is going so far.

At this time, everything is going well and I enjoy working alongside him.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

Currently I feel that my patience and willingness to serve a smaller youth group is being tested and is being matured. Sometimes it is hard to do youth activities when only 2-3 students show up, but I have to remind myself to serve the ones that are there, regardless of group size! I don't need to have the mindset to serve when only the large groups of students show up!

Through these trials, I feel that my sense of calling is becoming greater to serve in a pastoral ministry capacity.

Zach Owens

Date: November 21st

Name of intern: Zack Owens

Name of mentor: Ryan Dean

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church, PCA

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

My duties include, but are not limited to:

- *Helping lead the worship service beginning on November 23rd*
- *Teaching kids at Redeemer 3 times a week:*
 - *a series through Matthew,*
 - *a series on the Promises of God,*
 - *the Children's Catechism.*
- *facilitating many church events and programs*
- *regular involvement in committee meetings*
- *family visitation (special events/sports)*
- *hospital visits, nursing home visits*
- *discipleship meetings with men in the church.*

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

I meet regularly with my mentor, as well as with the other pastoral staff of our church. In these meetings, I am able to ask for advice, voice concerns, and present prayer requests regarding ministry, personal, and family concerns. These meetings have been very beneficial.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I am seeing how ministry in the local church differs from ministry in a para-church organization. I have greatly enjoyed the change, and have appreciated the wisdom of my pastors as I learn to navigate a life of ministry. The trials and triumphs have all served to confirm my calling, even as I see my need for growth in many areas.

Kevin Phipps

Date: Report for Presbytery Meeting February 2015

Name of intern: Kevin Phipps

Name of mentor: Dr. Ligon Duncan

Church where you are serving as an intern: First Presbyterian Jackson, MS

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

Worked with the Stewardship committee, led a discipleship group, taught Sunday School, preached in mid-week services, assisted in leading worship, and oversaw the television ministry of the church.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

I am scheduled to complete the course work requirements for the Master of Divinity program at Reformed Theological Seminary in January 2015. Therefore, the content of our meetings have been centered on post-seminary ministry options. Dr. Duncan has faithfully provided helpful

feedback, and an abundance of support and encouragement.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

First Presbyterian has provided numerous opportunities for the testing of my gifts and graces. It has been a joy to learn from the ministers on staff as well as from many godly brothers and fathers in the church. My experience as an intern has increased my desire to serve as teacher elder in the PCA.

Jemar Tisby

Date: December 3, 2014

Name of intern: Jemar Tisby

Name of mentor: Rev. Dr. Michael Campbell

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church, PCA (Jackson, MS)

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

- Assist with corporate worship Sunday mornings
- Serve on the Shepherding Committee
- Serve on the Church Planting Committee
- Coordinate Growth Groups (small group ministry)
- Teach Sunday School (Survey of the Book of Exodus)
- Develop contacts and strategies for church planting in the Farish St./Midtown community

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

My meetings with Rev. Campbell focus on professional development. I ask him various questions concerning the ministries in which I am involved and he gives me insight based on his experience and position as Senior Minister. Additionally, I inquire of Rev. Campbell about various interpersonal issues related to leadership and he advises me. My mentor also asks for my insight about students at Reformed Theological Seminary and other matters pertaining to the church.

These meetings are of great benefit to me. Rev. Campbell has proved to be very responsive to emails and surprisingly accessible for meetings and other interactions. His leadership style in both formal and informal settings has given me an example to emulate.

As I enter my final semester of seminary, I would like to learn how Rev. Campbell prepares his sermons in detail. What questions does he ask of the text? What resources does he use on a regular basis? How does he incorporate his knowledge of the congregation into making applications based on the text?

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I recently preached my first sermon at Redeemer Church, two services. While I have preached many times at other churches, it was especially important that many at my home church affirmed my gifts of preaching. Members have also affirmed my gift of teaching as they attend my Sunday School classes. My entrepreneurial gifts are being tested as the Church Planting Apprentice, and I've learned the important of "presence" in ministry, simply building relationships through frequent interactions.

As a result of this trial and my self-examination, I am more drawn to pastoral ministry than ever. It is not a question of whether I will serve in a pastoral capacity at a local church, it is a question of when and in what position.

