Candidate Laura Agee. Terms of call for First Presbyterian Church, Nevada, Missouri, beginning August 1, 2021.

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| Salary | 55,000.00 |
| Board of Pensions dues | 20,350.00 |
| Continuing Education | 1,500.00 |
| Mileage at the IRS rate | 500.00 |
| Professional Expenses | 500.00 |
| **Total Cost to church** | **77,850.00** |
| 2 weeks of continuing education leave |  |
| 4 weeks of vacation leave |  |

**Dale Hill moves that we elect an Administrative Commission to ordain and install Candidate Laura Agee as full-time pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Nevada, on August 22, 2021 at 4 p.m. consisting of: Elder Toni Spieth (First, Joplin), Elder Steve Byers (First, Nevada), the Reverend Diane Cooke, Elder Malinda Spencer (Pastoral Presbyter), and the Reverend Jared Witt.**

**Laura Agee**

**Autobiography**

I was born in Terrell, Texas in December of 1982 and was baptized at 2 weeks old at First Presbyterian Church of Terrell, Texas by Rev. Dr. Eleanor Cherryholmes. My parents and I moved shortly after that to the central Gulf Coast area of Florida for 14 years where we were very involved at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. Right before high school, my parents, maternal grandmother, and I moved to Arlington, Texas to be closer to my dad’s side of the family. I moved to Boulder, Colorado for college, initially majoring in Chemistry but then switching to Religious Studies and Sociology.

I got connected to First Presbyterian Church of Boulder, Colorado. I attended the Tuesday night college ministry, Sunday morning services, volunteered with the high school ministry, and participated in missions in Los Angeles, Peru, and Belize. After graduation, I moved to Newport Beach, California to work as a junior high ministry intern at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church for two years. Then I headed south to San Diego and I was a junior high intern at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in Solana Beach, CA. I began a Master’s program at Fuller Theological Seminary without knowing exactly what I wanted to do. I began the PCUSA Ordination process as an Inquirer in 2010. I continued taking a combination of seminary courses online, through distance learning, weekend intensives, satellite campus, and a season of commuting to the Pasadena campus. It was a very busy season while working full time at Solana Beach Presbyterian, but I appreciated the balance of learning and practicing ministry. I began a part-time pastoral internship (which led to becoming the Youth Director) at Northminster Presbyterian Church at the recommendation of my CPM for small church experience. I received a Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, became a Candidate for Ordination in the PCUSA in 2012, and certified ready for ordination in 2015.

In 2015 I moved to Ranger, a very small Texas town. I attended First Presbyterian Church of Eastland, Texas, a congregation of 12. I spent my time working on small house projects, reading, and exploring small towns in the area. During my time of discerning future ministry, I reconnected with a mentor from college and began applying for youth ministry positions across the country. I found a job posting for a position in Fort Scott, Kansas, and after visiting, I not only fell in love with the congregation but the entire community of Fort Scott. I moved in July 2016 and began work as the Director of Youth and Media.

I continued work at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott until budget cuts eliminated my position in late 2018. The church was supportive in the transition and while I don’t attend church there, I remain good friends/colleagues with the pastor. I began providing pulpit supply for churches within the presbytery who were without pastors. This provided space for me to continue working on my preaching skills and exploring pastoral ministry. I interviewed with several churches for an ordained position, but nothing materialized. This was an emotionally draining time, and I questioned my future in ministry. Thankfully, I developed a phenomenal group of friends, bought a house, and began planting roots in the community. I began work as a substitute teacher, bartender, census worker, and as an on-call chaplain. Now, I’m ready and excited to be ordained and begin the journey of full-time pastoral ministry.

**Laura Agee**

**Statement of Faith**

God is the creator of the entire universe and everything in it. God’s authority and power extends across all time and place, from the beginning to the end. God is one, the true God, in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is revealed in scripture, through Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit’s illumination of creation. Women and men are both created in the image of God and created to be in full communion with the triune God. All of creation is poisoned by sin and brokenness. Humans continue to make decisions that lead them away from God’s goodness while settling for something far less which leads to continued brokenness and suffering.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin: fully man and fully divine at the same time, not two, but one. He was crucified in order to reconcile sinners to God the Father, saving from sin those whom God has redeemed. After dying on a cross, Jesus was raised from the dead, overcoming death, and ascended into heaven, allowing the chosen ones to share in righteousness. He will return again in the fulfillment of the Kingdom, restoring all of creation to what God initially intended. Through Jesus Christ’s sinless life, his sacrificial death and resurrection, we are cleansed of our rebellious nature, redeemed, and made whole. With our faith in Jesus Christ alone, God offers us grace to join in God’s movement in the world, free from the chains of bondage and brokenness due to sin. Jesus proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God, its nearness and present fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is good news for all people because it frees us to live lives that matter, to give of ourselves as we have been given life free from the judgment and condemnation of sin. By a covenant of grace, we are reconciled to God through Christ. We are enabled to live our lives pointing to the source of our hope, which implies that we are not only saved from death, but also saved for a greater purpose of life. We are called to be tour guides of God’s Kingdom, pointing out to others where God is active in the world and restoring the broken places throughout creation.

The Holy Scriptures, which are composed of both the Old and New Testaments, are God-breathed and inspired, and reveal Jesus Christ through the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Scripture gives glory to God and is illuminated by the Holy Spirit convicting, comforting, converting, and building up the church. Through the Holy Spirit, we are guided, transformed, and able to understand the Scriptures, which have been given to the church.

The two sacraments celebrated by the Reformed Tradition are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper; both in a mysterious way mark God’s followers as belonging to God as they turn from sin, uniting them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and testifying to God’s faithfulness in their lives. Baptism is a mark for all believers celebrating their entrance into the community of God; this also includes infants as they are made part of the community by the faith of their parents and by the work of the Holy Spirit. The Lord’s Supper is a sign of our continual communion with the living God, who in Christ, lived and died for us. Everyday common elements of water, the fruit of the vine, and bread are used when celebrating the sacraments. They retain their true substance while being transformed into spiritual food in the midst of our celebration.

The church is the tangible result of the Spirit of God’s work in the world. The church is both visibly and invisibly sent forth to proclaim the Kingdom of God to the world, under Christ who is the head of the church. The marks of the church include the preaching of the Word of God, the right administration of the sacraments of Christ, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, and the upholding of ecclesiastical discipline. The church is composed of the people of God throughout time and place united as one body, those whom God alone has redeemed, who gather and are sent together in discipleship and mission. All are called to serve the church with their time, energy, and gifts, according to that which the Holy Spirit has given to them.

In all of this I believe because Jesus is Lord.