

Rev. Cynthia W. Brasher

Answers to Two Ordination Questions:

8) *Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?*

To “serve the people” for me means to be attentive to the needs of others, to discern the work of the Spirit, and to respond with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. An example in my validated ministry in Peace River Presbytery comes to mind. A Presbyterian minister asked if his church and I could collaborate in setting up an Ethics series on end of life care. He had been inspired by the book, *Being Mortal*, and the needs of the church. While I had not done something quite like this before, I offered to become the bridge of connecting appropriate clinicians and physicians from the health system with this pastor and planning team. We were able to coordinate this quickly, because of the collaboration, and the church developed a ten week series. We were amazed at the questions, dialogue, and energy around the series on advanced care planning for church members and families, community visitors, and guest speakers. The pastor and associates informed me later that they developed additional mini-series inspired by this event, including a Bible study and funeral planning series. This became energizing for all of us involved in serving the needs of the people with intelligence, imagination, and love at the various sacred stages of life.

9) *Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in the government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

It is a priority for me to remain in good standing with the denomination and presbytery in order to be faithful to my ordination vows and to maintain chaplain board certification requirements. My history has been to negotiate with my hospital administrator for time to attend Presbytery meetings and to serve on committees as appropriate. In addition, I welcome opportunities to supply preach as I find these provide balance in perspective on providing pastoral care, proclaiming the good news, and administering the sacraments in care for people. My faith and denominational ties inform the decisions I make every day in seeking to love and do justice in the image of Christ. I specifically recall a Presbytery meeting, in recent years, that inspired my leadership style and a particular set of goals for the next fiscal year. As a result, I negotiated with the Spiritual Care team to advocate with love and justice for their self-care as they care for others.