

19. The Commission on Ministry recommends that Presbytery validate the ministry of Rev. Shannon Weston as Senior Consultant and Lead Trainer for Unburdened, Inc., which is under contract to work with Design Group International and CAST (Coach Approach Skills Training) We offer following rationale:

Rev. Weston has been serving as Pastor at Ashland Presbyterian since 2012. She told the Credentials Team of COM that she did coach training initially to aid her church and realized in the last year that coaching fit her sense of call. She sees this as going from generalized ministry to specialized ministry. She expects to be working primarily with pastors, churches, and judicatories.

In response to the Application's question of "How is this ministry in conformity to the "mission of God's people?" [G-2.0503a(1)], Rev. Weston writes: Our Pastors and leaders are in desperate need of help. Many of the solutions that once worked for us no longer do, so in order to best help sometimes it is imperative that those leaders learn new skills like coaching, or get an outside perspective to help them see the things they cannot on their own." She adds that the majority of her work will be with churches, pastors and laity.

Concerning the stand of "service to others" [G-2.0503a(2)] she states that "As a pastor for the last 20 years my call has been to empower leaders and move the church to organizational health. I see my call moving from a generalized ministry (one church at a time doing all the other pastoral duties as well) to a specialized ministry where I can fulfill this call multiple churches and leaders at a time, also giving an outside perspective."

Regarding the standard of "Fidelity to God's word" [G-2.0503 (4)], Rev Weston writes: So often when churches are desperate for help they turn to people or places that do not understand the realities and hardships that face our church and our world today. As I train church leaders to coach, we talk specifically about the hard questions they need to ask....As a process consultant I will probably be helping come churches to "end well," which will require a pastoral presence as well as an understanding of process."

Rev. Weston will be living in the Baltimore area and will continue to be an active Presbyterian.

Accordingly, we recommend that her position be approved as a Validated Ministry.