

Rationale for Special Meeting on August 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

To the Presbytery of Boston,

One of our members pointed out that I did not provide a rationale for the special meeting on August 24, 2022, so I'd like to provide an explanation here.

The candidate who we will be considering for ordination is So Jung Kim. You can view her information in the meeting packet by clicking on this link:

<https://presbyteryofboston.org/Portals/0/2022-8-24%20Special%20Meeting%20Packet.pdf?ver=2022-08-12-083432-777>

So Jung Kim currently serves as an Associate for Theology with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA). While PMA offices are in Louisville, KY, she lives in the Boston area. She entered the ordination process with the Presbytery of Boston Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). CPM certified her ready to receive a call and submitted her information to the Committee on Ministry (COM). On August 11, COM met and voted to validate her position at PMA and to recommend her for ordination. In ordinary circumstances, the Presbytery would examine So Jung Kim on September 29 at our stated meeting.

Due to her current immigration status, So Jung Kim requested that the Presbytery examine her for ordination sooner. On March 15, 2022, President Biden signed into law H.R. 2471. This extended the EB-4 non-minister special immigrant workers program through September 30, 2022. So Jung Kim has been working in her current position under the EB-4 designation as a non-ordained religious worker. While the sunset date for this program is September 30, this law change does not impact ordained ministers and their accompanying spouses and children. This means that to continue in her work for PMA and remain within the U.S., she needs to be ordained by September 30, 2022. For this reason, COM requested that the moderator call a special meeting as soon as possible. If she is approved for ordination by our Presbytery on August 24, she will be ordained in early September, well in advance of the deadline.

I hope this helps to answer any questions. I also hope that you will participate in the discernment process by joining us on August 24. To get the zoom link, you must register. You can register for the meeting here:

<https://presbyteryofboston.org/Presbytery-Gatherings/Assembly-Meetings>

Peace,

T. J. DeMarco, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Boston