

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINATION OF A VALID MINISTRY

Categories of Presbytery membership include:

1. **Active Members** (G.11.0403; G-11.0406a)

Active members of Peace River Presbytery consist of those who are honorably retired, involved in a validated ministry in a congregation, or involved in a ministry which complies with the following criteria:

- a. Conforms to the mission of God's people as set for in scripture and the constitution.
- b. Serves and aids others and enables the ministry of others.
- c. Is theologically faithful to God's word.
- d. Is accountable to Presbytery and to the organizations, agencies, and the institutions for which they work.
- e. Participates in the deliberation and work of Presbytery and in worship and service in a congregation.

2. **Members-at-Large** (G-11.0406b)

Once engaged in validated ministry that complies with G-11.0403, but for personal or family reasons that Presbytery finds valid is temporarily not engaged in validated ministry. Should be encouraged to comply with as many of the elements of G-11.0403 as possible and to become a parish associate.

3. **Inactive Members** (G-11.0406c)

Once active, but now engaged in work that does not comply with G-11.0403.

"The continued status of each inactive member shall be renewed annually up to three years. If at the end of three years the minister has not been restored in active membership or membership-at-large, the Presbytery shall delete that person's name from the appropriate roll of Presbytery and may give that person a certificate of membership to a particular church" (G-11.0414).

4. **Members in Validated Ministries** (G-11.0410)

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

- a. Persons who serve a staff member of a presbytery, a synod, or the General Assembly of this church or of an organization related to one of these governing bodies.
- b. Ministers who serve an organization sponsored by two or more denominations, one of which is this church such as a federated church, a specialized ministry, an administrative office, or an interdenominational agency.
- c. Partners in mission in connection with a church outside the United States of America.

Beyond the jurisdiction of this church:

- a. Persons engaged in a ministerial calling consonant with the mission of the presbytery in an organization, agency, or institution in which this church has no official participation.
- b. Ministers serving temporarily as pastor or in some other capacity in another denomination, and accepting ministerial membership in that church for the period of such service. Before entering upon such service the minister shall request permission of the presbytery of membership. The committee on ministry of the presbytery shall make a thorough review of the proposed ministerial function and report its recommendations to the presbytery. The committee shall determine and report whether the service complies with all of the criteria enumerated in G-11.0403, without exception. If the presbytery grants the permission requested, such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually.

Application:

Peace River Presbytery will annually gather information from those ministers not yet honorably retired who are not serving a particular church (categories 2, 3, and 4 above) in order to determine their membership status.

Members-at-Large must show evidence of complying with the criteria for active members outlined in item #1 above.

Inactive Members, in order to be restored to active membership, must demonstrate conformity with either the criteria for active members in item #1 above or the criteria for validated ministry noted below:

Members in Validated Ministries who serve the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in ways outlined in G-11.0410 will be automatically validated. Those serving beyond the jurisdiction of this church who wish to be considered as active members must demonstrate:

- active involvement in the life of a particular church
- active involvement in the life and work of the presbytery
- significant service to congregations of the presbytery

If the Committee on Ministry is unable to make a determination of status on the basis of information submitted, an interview with the minister may be scheduled.

VALIDATED MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

I. Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: () _____ E-Mail address: _____

II. Ecclesiastical Status

* _____ Honorably Retired

* _____ Pastor Emeritus

_____ Ministry Validated by Presbytery: part-time _____ full-time _____

* _____ Ministry directly related to PC (U.S.A.) part-time _____ full-time _____

_____ Ministry in ecumenical work accountable to a governing body of the PC (U.S.A.):
part-time _____ full-time _____ (Do NOT fill in Item IV.)

_____ Ministry in interdenominational work, but not directly accountable for your ministry to
governing body of the PC (U.S.A.): (Fill in Item IV.)

_____ Member-at-Large

_____ Inactive

* **Fill in Items I and II only**

III. Report on Employment during the current year.

List all full or part-time positions held, whether secular or religious (including self-employment) from which income was earned. Describe positions, give name and address of employing body or write "not so employed".

What is the title of the position you currently hold? _____

IV. Please describe the way in which your present ministry fulfills the following criteria (G-11.0403).

- a. The ministry of continuing members shall be in demonstrable conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, *The Book of Confessions* and *Book of Order* of this church.
- b. The ministry shall be one that serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others.
- c. The ministry shall give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word. This will normally require the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and the completion of the requirements for ordination set forth in G-14.0402.
- d. The ministry shall be carried on in accountability for the character and conduct to the presbytery and to organizations, agencies, and institutions.
- e. The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and to organizations.