

# **Criteria for Ministry of Continuing Members**

## **G-11.0403 - Criteria for Ministry of Continuing Members**

A Presbytery shall determine the ministers of the Word and Sacrament who shall be its continuing members. In making this determination the Presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the Presbytery for validation of ministries within its bounds. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0200 and the following standards:

- 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 the 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 its 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 in the worship and service of a congregation.

## **G-11.0406b - Member-at-Large**

A member-at-large is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who has previously been admitted to the Presbytery or another Presbytery as an active member, and who now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, is no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-11.0403.

A minister may be designated a member-at-large because he or she is limited in his or her ability to engage in a ministry fulfilling all of the criteria for a validated ministry because of family responsibilities or other individual circumstances which Presbytery recognizes as important. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 as possible and shall be encouraged to become a parish associate in a congregation. A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of the Presbytery and to speak, vote, and hold office. The status of each member-at-large may be granted by the Presbytery upon the minister's application and shall be reviewed annually.

## **G-14.0400(9) - Constitutional Questions for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament**

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

### **IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE REFERENCES FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER**

#### **The Responsibility of Active Ministers to Presbytery**

Since continuing members of Presbytery shall be expected to participate in the life and work of the Presbytery, we regularly remind ministers of the importance of attending Presbytery meetings, and we provide a written list of attendance at the meetings of Presbytery the previous year at each January meeting.

#### **The Responsibility of Members-at-Large of Presbytery**

Since ministers-at-large shall be expected to participate in the deliberations of Presbytery and the life and work of a congregation, we encourage ministers-at-large to regularly attend Presbytery meetings and to provide a one-page summary of their ministry during the previous year to the Committee on Ministry in January of each year. This is to satisfy the Book of Order requirement for an annual review of ministers-at-large.