

The Process for Restoration to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament for those who have been released from ordained office at their request.

Book of Order (G-6.0600 c)

Desire to Be Restored c. A person released under this section who desires to be restored to the ordained office shall make application to the governing body that granted the release, or to the presbytery if the church has been dissolved, and upon approval of that governing body, the person shall be restored to the exercise of the ordained office without reordination.

1. A formal letter is sent to the Stated Clerk expressing a desire to be restored. Also, in the letter the person must indicate what PCUSA congregation they are currently a member of.
2. The Stated Clerk notifies the Committee on Ministry and opens all relevant files related to that person's decision to lay aside their ordination;
3. The Committee on Ministry seeks input from those who had firsthand knowledge of the reason why the person laid aside their ordination;
4. The Stated Clerk, Committee on Ministry and staff will interview the person desiring to be restored. (Questions to be asked would be similar to the candidacy process of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry – sense of call, readiness to be ordained, theology, emotional, relational, spiritual maturity and health, reviewing what led to the decision to set aside ones ordination, etc.)
5. The Committee on Ministry interviews persons who can attest to their current spiritual health and call into ministry, including the pastor and session of the congregation where they are currently a member.
6. Reference checks are conducted by the Committee on Ministry.
7. The full Committee on Ministry interviews person, and makes a determination and communicates the decision to the person;
8. If the Committee on Ministry recommends against restoration, no further action will be taken by Peace River Presbytery;
9. If proceeding with restoration, the person would provide the Presbytery the same back-ground information as is required for all seeking membership in Peace River Presbytery; and the Presbytery will vote on whether to restore this person to ordained office and membership in Peace River Presbytery.
10. Like all candidates for ministry, except for those honorably retired, Committee on Ministry will certify them ready to be restored pending a call to a validated ministry position.

Policy # 31

Approved by C.O.M.: September 9, 2008