

A Covenant Journey: The Process of Discernment for Ministry of Word and Sacrament (Peace River Presbytery, 8/2008)

----- PRAYER AND DISCERNING GOD'S WILL THROUGHOUT -----

- (1) Person feels possible call to ministry
(2) Contacts Pastor, CPM Chair who calls Presbytery
(3) Pres. sends questionnaire to person to be filled out, available to Session well before meeting, including ordination questions.
(4) CPM schedules and does a 45 minute training for Session on whole process
(5) Session meets w/person, discusses answers, votes on becoming Inquirer (Includes at least partial payment of career counseling fees.)
(6) If person approved by Session, career counseling set up, meeting w/CPM
INQUIRY PHASE*
(See definition listed below.)
MUST last one year

(Both of above can be done at same meeting.)

- (7) CPM meets w/person, votes on approving them for Inquiry Phase. (If possible, after reading Career counseling report)
(8) Liaison assigned if not already done at this point. Presbytery enrolls as Inquirer.
(9) Person may or may not go off to seminary at this point.
(10) Inquirer meets w/CPM annually, is asked ordination questions and if can live by Book of Order requirements.
(11) If at seminary, takes Bible Content Exam first year (suggested)
(12) After one year, or longer, tells pastor wants to move to Candidate Phase.

- CANDIDATE PHASE****
(See definition listed below.) **Must also be at least one year.**
(13) Pastor notifies CPM Chair who calls Presby office. Questionnaire sent to Inquirer. Available to Session well before meeting with them.
(14) Session meets w/Inquirer, discusses answers, votes on decision to approve move to Candidate Phase
(15) Inquirer meets w/CPM which votes on recommendation to Presbytery re. candidacy. If approved...
(16) ...Presbytery votes on approving move to Candidate Phase.

***Inquiry Phase:**

To provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ministry of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together in such a way that the decision regarding the Inquirer's suitability for ministry of the Word and Sacrament will be based on knowledge and experience of one another. (See G-14.0303 for details.)

****Candidate Phase**

To provide for the full preparation of persons to serve the church as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This shall be accomplished through the guidance and evaluation of candidates, using learning contacts within the context of supportive relationships. (See G-14.0305 for details.)

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----- PRAYER AND DISCERNING GOD'S WILL THROUGHOUT -----

CANDIDATE PHASE:

Candidate consults w/CPM annually until they either:

- 1) Meet requirements and gain approval to receive a call **OR...**
- 2) Discern call lies in other areas and they ask to be removed from care of CPM

Presbytery Requirements:

Supervised Ministry
Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) (suggested)
Course in Reformed Theology
Course in Polity
PCUSA seminary for at least one year (suggested) or a seminary approved by the CPM as having a strong reformed (PCUSA) track
Preach before CPM
Personal Statement of Faith

PCUSA Requirements:

Candidate for at least one year
Pass all five national ordination exams (Bible Content, Polity, Worship, Theology, Scripture Exegesis w/sermon outline)
Meet *Book of Order* requirements (G-14.0450)

Throughout Candidate Phase

Throughout Candidate Phase annual consultations allow for review of process and progress.

READY FOR A CALL

When all the above requirements have been met, and if the CPM discerns the call to Ministry of Word and Sacrament has come to fruition, the candidate is given permission to circulate PIF, thus indicating the person is ready to receive a call. This is reported to Presbytery. (G-14.0450) (It is recommended that the liaison read the PIF before it is circulated.)

SEARCH PROCESS BEGINS

Search process begins. Once call is issued, Candidate is examined by new Presbytery and approved for ordination. Ordination can be done in home Presbytery, or in Presbytery where call is located.

The process is complete!

Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow.

NOTES: