

GUIDELINES FOR VALIDATING MINISTRIES

In addition to the “Criteria for Ministry of Continuing Members” found in G-6.0100, G-6.0200 and G-11.0403 (), the following shall:*

Validated ministries in Foothills Presbytery includes all ministries under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., including those cited in G-11.0409 and G-11.0410 of the “Form of Government”, Constitution, Part II, Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The validation of such ministries is automatic upon initial approval of the call by the presbytery and does not require further review of the validation.

POSSIBLE MINISTRIES REQUESTING VALIDATION:

Christian educators, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, pastoral counselors, campus ministers, missionaries, partners in mission, evangelists, social workers, consultants, administrators.

PROCESS:

- 1.) When a minister seeks validation for his/her ministry, he/she will request & schedule a hearing with the Committee on Ministry.
- 2.) Prior to the hearing, the Validated Ministry sub-committee will send the minister the “Guidelines for Validating Ministries” along with requirements for preparation for the hearing.
- 3.) The minister seeking validation meets with the COM at a stated meeting for the hearing.
- 4.) If the COM validates his/her ministry, the COM then clarifies for the minister his/her future responsibilities as a member of Foothills Presbytery.
- 5.) If the COM validates his/her ministry, the COM will report its action at a stated meeting of Foothills Presbytery.
- 6.) Ministers in validated ministries shall ordinarily be members of Foothills Presbytery. Ministers and candidates seeking membership in Foothills Presbytery shall be examined and received in accordance with the Presbytery’s process for examination and ordination.
- 7.) If the COM declines validation, specific reasons must be given citing guidelines which have not been met.
If the minister desires another meeting with the COM, the minister must be provided an opportunity to be heard and a consideration of his/her positions considered without prejudice.

GUIDELINES FOR VALIDATION:

In addition to the requirements set forth in the *Book of Order G-11.0403*, the minister seeking validation shall:

- 1.) Be a graduate of a certified theological institution which normally requires a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent, and have completed the requirements for ordination set forth in the *Book of Order G-14.0402*
- 2.) Present his/her personal history as it led to his/her particular call to a ministry outside the jurisdiction of the church.
- 3.) Present a statement of faith demonstrating fidelity to God's Word, and an understanding of reformed theology.
- 4.) Describe how his/her work serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others. Its primary focus should relate to the service of people rather than the production of goods for profit.
- 5.) Describe how his/her work provides opportunities for articulating and embodying the Christian faith.
- 6.) Present a minimum of two references which describe accountability for his/her character and conduct within his/her chosen ministry.
- 7.) Demonstrate a current involvement in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship and service of a congregation.
- 8.) When appropriate, present evidence of certification by a professional certifying agency showing compliance with the professional standards of that particular organization.
- 9.) When applicable, present a mission statement for the particular organization for which he/she will be involved in ministry.
- 10.) Demonstrate his/her organizational accountability for ministry (e.g. a board, a council, a school, an agency, an interdenominational organization, a service organization, etc.)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER FOLLOWING VALIDATION:

Shall include, but not be limited to, attendance at Presbytery meetings, completion of the yearly report requested by the COM, service on Presbytery committees, participation in the life of a particular church, and keeping his/her applicable professional certification current. Following validation, it is the responsibility of the minister to promptly notify the COM of any change in the minister's validated work. COM shall determine whether the work still meets the criteria set forth.

Addendum to “Guidelines for Validating Ministries”

“BEST PRACTICES” FOR COM (Ideas for supporting person in specialized ministries):

- Recognize person in specialized ministries at Presbytery meetings and in Presbytery minutes.
- Provide an annual review of ministry.
- Visit location of the specialized ministry by a member of COM.
- Encourage persons with pastoral gifts to serve on Presbytery committees.
- Encourage specialized ministers to serve as parish associates in local congregations and as interims and stated supplies.
- Install persons in specialized ministries, as is done with ministers in congregational settings.
- Provide friendship/support/peer-group for persons in specialized pastoral ministries.
- Provide retreats and educational events for persons in specialized ministries.
- Nominate certified professionals to sit on Presbytery committees.

Approved by Committee on Ministry
November 2007