

DRAFT POLICY FOR TEMPORARY PRESBYTERY MEMBERSHIP FOR MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS NOT COVERED BY ECUMENICAL AGREEMENTS

This policy does not cover ordained ministers of other denominations who seek to become MWS in the PCUSA. That process is governed by [G-2.0505]

Ministers of denominations that are part of the Formula of Agreement denominations (UCC, ELC and RCA) are able to serve PCUSA churches according to those terms of agreement and Ministers of the Episcopal Church in America may serve in PCUSA churches subject to the terms of agreement of the Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on the Local Sharing of Ministries.

TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP

Ministers of all other denominations seeking to serve churches in the Baltimore Presbytery will be considered for Temporary membership in POB [G-2.0506] if the following requirements are met:

- Graduation from an accredited seminary, proof of ordination and a letter of good standing in the denomination of membership
- A criminal background check
- A satisfactory interview with the Credentials Team which would include
 - A Statement of Faith
 - An understanding of the tenets of Reformed Theology
 - An understanding of the church and the ministry that would be served
 - An assessment of any areas for which additional preparation or coursework may be required
 - An affirmative answer to the constitutional questions including being governed by our polity and abiding by its discipline
- A satisfactory examination on the floor of presbytery on the minister's statement of faith and call to ministry

Temporary membership must be attained within one year of beginning service in a church in Baltimore Presbytery and may be renewed by the COM on an annual basis.

SACRAMENTS

If the COM determines that the presbytery's strategy for mission in the church being served by the temporary member includes officiating at Baptisms and Communion it will work in partnership with the CPM to provide preparation that is at least the equivalent to that undertaken by ruling elders who are candidates for commissioned service.

MODERATING SESSION

If the COM determines that the presbytery's strategy for mission in the church being served by the temporary member includes moderating the session, it will be considered if the following are met:

- a course in PCUSA polity from an accredited seminary
- a year of supervised practice with the presbytery appointed moderator