

Policy to Receive Ministers from Other Denominations

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The following policy applies to previously ordained clergy from other denominations. This does not apply to “formula of agreement” pastors of those denominations who have dual standing while they are serving a PC(USA) congregation. Any person can also follow the standard inquiry/candidacy process outlined in the Book of Order through the Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

1. The applicant must have been ordained at least 5 years.
2. The General Presbyter or the Stated Clerk will review the applicant to ensure he/she meets the constitutional conditions as listed in G-2.0607. The applicant’s educational background will be reviewed as required in G-2.0607b and G-2.0607c concerning graduation from a regionally accredited college or university and from an acceptable theological institution. In the case of an immigrant minister, G-2.0505a(1) allows for an exception with respect to the educational requirements.
3. The General Presbyter or the Stated Clerk will then check with the applicant’s judicatory to certify that he/she is a member in good standing and to assess their suitability for parish ministry.
4. A preliminary examination will be conducted to assess basic theological and collegial fit. This will be performed by a special Interview Team (appointed by Examinations Team Chair), or one of the regular Examination Teams. The applicant will submit a Statement of Faith and a PIF or resume to the Examination Team.
5. Upon the successful completion of the preliminary examination, the Committee on Ministry will then ask the Commission on Preparation for Ministry to do the following.
 - a. See to the administration of the standard psychological exams administered to all inquirer/candidates for ministry, or some other appropriate assessment. (*Costs will be shared by the applicant, congregation [if applicable], COM and CDC [if applicable].*)
 - b. Facilitate the applicant’s registration for the national administration of all five ordination exams. See G-2.0607 (*The ordination exams may be repeated up to three times. Accommodations will be made for language and/or cultural barriers. CPM works closely with the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Ordination Exams regarding such barriers, and will consult with COM and CDC as necessary.*)
 - c. Conduct a “Final Assessment” examination in the ordinary manner.

Following the satisfaction of all of these steps the applicant is then “certified ready” to receive a call.

6. If and when the “certified ready” applicant receives a call to an installed position, as a Specialized Minister to an immigrant fellowship endorsed by the CDC of NCP, or as an organizing pastor in National Capital Presbytery, then the applicant will have a formal Examination Team interview following the normal call process. When the call process is complete, the applicant is received as a minister member of NCP and the PC(USA).

Notes

- a. Applicants will be received as minister members only for calls to National Capital Presbytery installed positions, as a Specialized Minister to an immigrant fellowship endorsed by the CDC of NCP, or as or as an organizing pastor.
 - Designated Pastors are installed and eligible to be received as minister members.
 - Ministers of other denominations are not received as minister members to pursue specialized (non-parish) ministry, except for immigrant fellowships as noted above.
- b. Immigrant ministers may be admitted as minister members before educational criteria are satisfied. (See G-G-2.0505a(1))
- c. See the May 2014 Advisory Opinion from the PC(USA) on *Receiving Ministers of Other Denominations* (<http://oga.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/advisory-opinion14.pdf>).