

CANDIDATE RESPONSE FORM FOR CPM EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

OUTCOMES OF CANDIDACY FOR FINAL ASSESSMENT

By the end of the candidacy phase, each candidate shall demonstrate readiness to begin ministry of the Word and Sacrament as a Teaching Elder. Readiness is understood in this way:

- Witness to a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;
- Presentation of a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at an accredited college or university;
- Presentation of a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery; evidence of a course of study which included Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek; satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation.
- Satisfactory grades on all ordination exams established by the General Assembly.
- Supervised practice of ministry.

(Based on G-2.0607 and G-2.0607)

Please use a separate sheet of paper to respond to the following requirements that are based upon G-2.0607, G-2.0607 and the *Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)* (2011).

1. Have you graduated from seminary, or are you close to graduating? Have you passed all of the ordination exams?
2. Describe your experience in the supervised practice of ministry and provide any supervisor's reports that the committee does not already have.
3. Write a statement of your personal faith. (1 page)
4. Write a sermon, together with a description of the contemporary need it addresses, based on the Scripture used for your Exegesis Ordination Exam. The sermon may be preached in front of the Final Assessment Committee. The sermon should be no longer than 15 minutes. The sermon does not need to be from the same sermon outline that you wrote for your exegesis exam. A copy of the exegesis on which your sermon is based will be given to the Final Assessment team. You are not required to preach for your Final Assessment from the same sermon outline or Bible study outline that you wrote for your exegesis exam.
5. Affirm your understanding of the ordination questions (W-4.4003) by preparing one paragraph of reflection for each question. While your answers will not be exhaustive, you might consider the following: *What is their meaning? How have you lived them out in your preparation for ministry? How might they be lived out in your ministry to come?* Your responses will provide the basis for more in-depth conversation at your Final Assessment.

Ordination Questions for Teaching Elders

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- i. (3) (For teaching elder) Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?
