

Continuing Membership and Validation Of Ministry Policy

Since each Presbytery "shall determine the ministers of the Word & Sacrament who shall be its continuing members" (Book of Order, G-11.0403) the Presbytery of Boise establishes that each of the following criteria as "active members of the Presbytery" in addition to criteria found in G-6.0100, G-6.0200 and G-11.0403:

1. A continuing member shall take the initiative in establishing an active relation to Presbytery evidenced by regular attendance. Regular attendance shall normally be understood to consist of attendance in at **least two (2)** of the regular stated meetings each year, and request for excuse for all absences. Honorably Retired members are encouraged to attend meetings but are not required to request an excuse for all absences from regular stated meetings.
2. A continuing member shall exhibit and implement willingness to serve in the committee and committee structures of the governing bodies.
3. A continuing member shall be:
 - a) under documented and approved call or contract to a particular congregation or governing body position, *or*
 - b) honorably retired, *or*
 - c) [COM] approved member at large, *or*
 - d) entering a work defined in G-11.0411 for which the presbytery shall give its permission by validating it a ministry "In Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of the Church."

Minister members of the Presbytery of Boise may be engaged in validated ministries within congregations (G-11.0409), within governing bodies of the church, ecumenical agencies, specialized ministries under the control of the church, and interdenominational agencies (G-11.0410); or engaged in validated ministries beyond the jurisdiction of the church (G-11.0411), providing the ministry meets the following criteria:

I. The ministry shall be approved by presbytery **before** the member enters into such service. (G-11.0411)

II. The ministry shall be in line with the mission of the presbytery. (G-11.0411)

The mission of the Boise Presbytery is to assist, support, equip and challenge congregations to be disciples, and to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Goal Statements:

- We **CONNECT** congregations and members of Presbytery with one another and with the church beyond our geographical and denominational bounds.
- We **CARE** for congregations and members of Presbytery by providing guidance, encouragement, and resources for their ministries.
- We **CHALLENGE** congregations and members of Presbytery with a vision of faithfulness, so that, with God's help, our witness can grow;
- We **CREATE** new ministries as God leads us to bear witness to Jesus Christ.

III. The ministry shall adhere to the essentials of the Reformed faith and polity as expressed in the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions and in conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Scripture. (G-6.0108, G-11.0403)

IV. The ministry makes active and effective use of the biblical and theological training that is required for ordination. (G-11.0403)

V. The ministry shall exercise pastoral care to those for whom they are responsible. The ministry shall serve Christ and humanity, strengthen the church and equip it for service to the human community. (G-6.0203)

VI. Those involved in validated ministries outside of a congregation shall participate in the worship of a local congregation, in their presbytery, and in ecumenical relationships, and shall be eligible for election to the higher governing bodies of the church and to the boards and agencies of those governing bodies. (G-11.0403)

VII. Those engaged in validated ministry shall be accountable to the presbytery. (G-11.0403)

The ministry shall be accountable for its character and conduct to the presbytery and appropriate organizations or agencies. (G-11.0403)

REVIEW

Presbytery's Committee on Ministry shall review ministers within the categories outlined above annually. Those who are considered no longer eligible to hold membership in the presbytery will be placed on the Inactive Members Roll, after they have been personally interviewed concerning their situation. Their names will be placed on the Inactive Roll for three years after which they will be dropped from the rolls, unless their status is changed and Committee on Ministry agrees to the change.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are members of Presbytery of Boise but are currently neither in valid ministries within a congregation nor Honorably Retired need to have their employment approved as being valid in order to maintain their credentials in this presbytery. Their status will be reviewed annually.

November 2008

Processes for COM use Regarding Members at Large and Validated Ministries

Members At Large

1. COM shall send a letter in December of each year (excepting those members at large whose status is defined by family responsibilities or illness/disability). The letter will:
 - a. Include language of G-11.0406b (and five criteria cited in G- 11.0403).
 - b. Cite Presbytery policy regarding attendance (#1) and service (#2) with reference to the individual's actual attendance and known service.
 - c. Request a written response by January 10 that includes indication of desire to continue as member at large.
2. If written response is received, two-members of COM will (in the first year this process is implemented OR at the first request for at-large status) meet with the member to discuss his/her activities vis a vis G-11.0403. Recommendation for or against continuing at large status made by these two will come to COM.
3. If written response is not receive, COM will send letter indicating intent to place the minister on inactive status effective upon action at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery.

Validated Ministry

The intent of this process is to support creativity and the “doing of new things” while also conforming to G-11.0411. Ultimately, a minister serving in a validated ministry continues in direct relationship with COM and the Presbytery. His or her gifts and experiences are to be shared with the larger body and celebrated by that body.

1. Central to COM decision to validate one's service is *clear accountability*. It is expected that the minister with validated service will have an ongoing relationship with a particular church within the Presbytery. His or her ministry must occur under the supervision of a governing body approved by COM.
2. The individual private practice of counseling, psychotherapy, holistic healing, therapeutic massage etc. does not meet the requirements for validation because it lacks this direct accountability relationship. Practices that are associated with churches, which provide accountability and oversight, would be able for consideration.
3. Initially (for those whose ministries are currently validated or for those seeking validation for the first time) two-members of COM will meet with the individual minister to review the requirements for validation as set forth in the Presbytery approved policy on continuing members and validated ministries. This review shall be in relationship to the actual documented work of the minister. The two members of COM shall make recommendation to COM for or against validation.
4. Subsequently COM will send a letter in December of each year to every minister with validated service including an outline for written report by that minister to COM. Deadlines for receipt of that annual report shall be January 10.

5. COM will review every report received and make annual determination regarding continuation of validation.
6. Should a report not be received COM will notify the minister of its intent to withdraw validation effective the next stated meeting of the presbytery.

NOTE: Any minister who is denied member at large or validated ministry status by COM may appeal this decision to the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery. Should further appeal beyond this stage be desired the minister shall state his/her case before the Presbytery in stated meeting.

BOOK OF ORDER REFERENCES

Active Member: G-11.0406a
Members at large: G-11.0406b
Validated Ministry: G-11.0408
Criteria for Ministry Of Continuing Members: G-11.0403

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