

**Ministers from Other Denominations (G-2.0505)**

Ministers from other denominations may only serve Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches at the discretion of the presbytery and under certain circumstances.

- A. Only PC(USA) ministers and Formula Partner ministers (Reformed Church in American, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the United Church of Christ) may serve as installed pastors of PC(USA) congregations. This includes the positions of pastor, associate pastor, co-pastor, designated and designated associate pastor.
- B. Ministers of other denominations may serve in temporary positions such as Sunday-to-Sunday supply, as stated supply, or interim pastor.
- C. Presbyteries have no obligation to allow other denomination ministers (including those of churches in full communion or in correspondence with the PC (USA)) to serve their churches. Thorough examination and reference checking is essential.
- D. Ministers of other denominations who wish to become PC(USA) ministers must meet the Book of Order requirements in G-2.0505. Any waiver of those requirements is in "extraordinary circumstances" and can be made only by the calling presbytery with a 3/4 vote. Ministers of other Reformed churches ordained for five or more years only need a 2/3 vote.

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**Transfer of Membership to PC(USA)**

***A. In order to become a PC(USA) minister***

In order to become a PC(USA) minister, a minister of another denomination (including Formula Partners) must:

- Be an ordained minister
- Have a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and a Theological degree from an institution acceptable to the presbytery of call
- Pass PC(USA) standard ordination exams
- Have a presbytery’s approval to become a member, once the minister has a call

At this point they may enter a personal information form online in Church Leadership Connection for referral.

We cannot accept ministers of other denominations who have not passed PC(USA) ordination exams since only the presbytery of call gives waivers from the *Book of Order* requirements. They will be required to provide attestation of "good standing" from an authorized official of his or her present governing body. Our office will request, on behalf of the presbyteries, the required "good standing" letter

***B. To complete the transfer they must:***

- Have a call to appropriate work in the PC(USA)
- Be examined and approved by the presbytery of call (usually by the committee on ministry)
- They will be examined on their Christian faith, in theology, and in the system of government of this church, and at the discretion of the presbytery in other subjects
- Answer the ordination questions in the affirmative
- Furnish evidence that they have been officially removed from the roll of the other Denomination

***C. Waiver of requirements (see G-2.0610)***

The presbytery shall not waive any of the foregoing requirements except in extraordinary cases. It shall make an exception only by three-fourths vote of the members of the presbytery present.

Ministers of other Reformed denominations (such as Reformed Church in America or United Church of Christ) may be exempted from taking standard ordination exams if they have been ordained for five or more years and if the presbytery approves by a two-thirds vote as above.