

VALIDATION OF A MINISTRY BEYOND THE CONGREGATION: POLICY FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

A ministry beyond the congregation shall be validated, i.e., shall be deemed a Validated Ministry, under the following conditions:

- I. Requirements of the Ministry** A ministry shall be validated if the ministry:
- A. Is in conformity with the mission of God's people as expressed in the Holy Scriptures, The *Book of Confessions*, and the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and,
 - B. Is accompanied by a complete job description that meets the criteria of paragraph A above.
 - C. Is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or with a denomination in correspondence with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or involves service beyond the jurisdiction of the church that is consonant with the mission of the presbytery in an organization, agency, or institution in which this church has no official participation.
- II. Requirements of the Minister** A call to a validated ministry is in order if the minister:
- A. Is an ordained *Teaching Elder* (Minister of the Word and Sacrament) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in good standing.
 - B. Is accountable to a legally constituted and incorporated governing body with oversight responsibility for the ministry (e.g., a Board of Directors or Trustees).
 - C. Is willing to submit an annual report to the Presbytery of New Covenant through the Committee on Ministry.
 - D. Participates regularly in the worship and service of a local congregation (to include Parish Associate relationship if invited), and performs the sacraments when called upon and authorized to do so; and
 - E. Is active in the work of the Presbytery of New Covenant.
- III. Approval Process**
- A. The responsibility for the **approval and oversight** of a validated ministry beyond the jurisdiction of the church (PCUSA) rests with the presbytery (as delegated to the Committee on Ministry); the responsibility for a **thorough review** of the proposed ministerial function rests with the Committee on Ministry.
 - B. The request for the validation of a ministry shall be submitted ***in writing*** by the minister, and forwarded to the Administration Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry. Such request should ordinarily be made ***prior*** to the start of the call to / employment with the proposed validated ministry. The written request must include

a description and explanation of the ministry for which validation is requested, along with comments on how the proposed validated ministry meets each requirement of all validated ministries as outlined in the The Book of Order, as well as the requirements listed in Sections I and II above.

C. If the ministry beyond the local congregation is validated by the Committee on Ministry, that validation stays in place until such cause is shown to withdraw the validation. There will be an annual review, however, to determine if the validation shall continue (see IV.B below). A minister's call to this validated ministry is handled through the existing process for calls within the Presbytery of New Covenant.

D. When a new ministry is being considered for validation, representatives from COM will meet with the minister to further discuss the proposed validated ministry, the minister's call, and how the proposed validated ministry meets the requirements of all validated ministries.

E. After its deliberation on the request, the subcommittee will make a recommendation to the Committee on Ministry. If so approved, the action of the COM shall be reported to the presbytery at its next meeting.

F. It is appropriate for presbytery to conduct a service of installation or a service of recognition at the inauguration of this ministry.

IV. Annual Reporting

A. On behalf of the presbytery, the Committee on Ministry (through the Administration Subcommittee) shall request and require the completion of an annual report from each minister serving a call to an approved validated ministry beyond the call of the congregation. Information to be requested may include, but not be limited to, the current status with regard to the validated ministry and the minister's call to the ministry, the current level of participation by the minister in the life of a congregation and of the presbytery, and other items that may be deemed pertinent to such a ministry and call and to an annual review.

B. The Administration Subcommittee shall review the contents of all annual reports, and make a recommendation to the Committee on Ministry that COM approve (or not) the continued validation of this ministry beyond the call of the congregation, and the individual minister's call to that ministry. If so approved, the action of COM shall be reported to the Presbytery at its next meeting.

I have read and agree to the requirements as outlined above.

Signature of minister

Date

First Reading: May, 2007

Second Reading & Action: May, 2008

Presented to the presbytery for information: May 10, 2008