

Denver Presbytery

Policy on Validation of Ministry (As Required by Book of Order G-2.0503a) Committee on Ministry – Revised 2012

Teaching Elders who are members of Denver Presbytery but are currently neither in valid ministries within a congregation nor Honorably Retired need to have their employment and/or service to the church approved as being valid in order to maintain their credentials in this presbytery. Their status will be reviewed annually on a case by case basis and guided by following policy and definitions.

1. Since “teaching elders have membership in the presbytery by action of the presbytery itself (G-2.0502), the Denver Presbytery has the authority to determine the teaching elders who shall be its continuing members. The Presbytery of Denver establishes that each of the following criteria must be met in order to continue as active members of the Presbytery.
 - a. Active members “demonstrate conformity with the mission of God’s people in the world as set forth in Holy scripture, the Book of Confessions, the Book of Order of this Church” (G-2.0503a1) and the Mission Design of this Presbytery.
 - b. The ministry of active members shall serve and aid others and enable the ministries of others.” (G-2.0503a2)

We define this in the way that one’s ministry should serve people in the name of Jesus Christ foremost rather than in the production of goods, profits, or be self-serving in nature.

- c. The ministry shall “give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God’s word.” (G-2.0503a3)

We define this as a ministry that makes active and effective use of the biblical and theological training that is required for ordination and where possible involves the regular administration of the Word and Sacraments.

- d. The ministry of active members shall “be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies and institutions served.” (G-2.0503a4)

We define this as a ministry that is accountable to a management committee, board of directors or to others responsible for the overall results of the total ministry program. This ministry shall be carried out in accountability for its

character and conduct and is answerable to the presbytery for agreed upon end results or activities with a review of the ministry on an annual basis.

- e. The ministry of active members shall “include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the worship of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA).” (G-2.0503a5)

We define this in that the minister shall make every reasonable attempt to:

- (1) participate in at least three presbytery meetings a year.
 - (2) Participate actively on at least one presbytery committee, work group, or mission entity.
 - (3) Participate in regular attendance at the worship of a local Presbyterian church PC(USA) or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA), and where possible, serve on committees of that church to help aid in its mission and ministry.
2. In regard to those occasions when there is a question of fulfilling the above requirements, the Committee on Ministry will take into consideration the above requirements and all other factors relating to a sense of call to ministry before making a recommendation that a person be placed on the member at large roll of the presbytery or removed from the rolls. In making this consideration, an interview with the teaching elder may be required.

Supplementary criteria to clarify understanding of:

1. Ministries in other service of this church:

Minister who is employed in PCUSA related institutions beyond the local congregation will have their ministry reviewed and approved by the Committee on Ministry upon application.

2. Ministries beyond the jurisdiction of presbytery: Book of Order G-2.0503a

Employment by a non-church related ministry may be validated if the position description for such office includes ordination to Christian ministry as either a requirement or significant criteria for employment.

Where psychological counseling and therapy is the nature of the employment, it shall be an office or practice within the jurisdiction of a church or a ministry within the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Denver. The Committee on Ministry may/shall ask for evidence of appropriate State licensure for the counselor or therapist.

3. Members-at-Large:

Book of Order G-2.0503b

Unemployed ministers who are actively seeking a call shall continue to hold membership as a member-at-large and under the oversight of the Committee on Ministry.

The position of Parish Associate in and of itself, shall NOT be considered a valid reason for gaining or maintaining credentials in this presbytery, because a parish associate position is defined as being in addition to an already validated ministry, or for Honorably Retired.

4. Tentmaking:

A tentmaker minister is one who divides the week's working hour between two or more positions, one in service as a teaching elder in a congregation or in a ministry defined by the presbytery as valid, and the other in a secular position.

It shall be validated only if such work requires the employment of an ordained minister, or if the position within the church is that of Pastor or Associate Pastor.

REVIEW

Teaching elders within the categories listed above numbered 2, 3, and 4 shall be reviewed annually by presbytery's Committee on Ministry (G-2.0503a). Those who are considered no longer eligible to hold membership in the presbytery will be removed from the rolls, after they have been personally interviewed concerning their situation.