

## **Presbytery of Denver**

### **Policy Regarding Extraordinary Circumstances for Candidates (G-14.0313)**

**Adopted by Denver Presbytery on August 20, 2005**

**Approved by Synod of the Rocky Mountains on \_\_\_\_\_**

According to the *Book of Order* (G-14.0313), "All of the requirements of G-14.0310 shall be met except in the following extraordinary circumstances: ..." The extraordinary circumstances involve educational, examination, and time requirements. Technically, only the provision for examination requirements needs synod approval. Synod approval is for a process to be used any time that a need arises; there is no need to request synod approval of the particular application of the process for a candidate. It is useful, however, to state the processes that the presbytery will use to deal with extraordinary circumstances regarding educational and time requirements.

#### **Policy**

##### General

Exceptions to the requirements in G-14.0310 are at the discretion of the presbytery. The requirement that any exception be granted only by a three-fourths vote of the members present at a meeting of presbytery makes it clear that exceptions are not to be granted lightly.

##### Educational Requirements (G-14.0313a)

Presbytery may determine (by three-fourths vote at a stated or called meeting) that an inquirer or candidate need not meet certain of the educational requirements of G-14.0310b(2) or b(3) and that an exception shall be granted, only after the Committee on Preparation for Ministry has reported in full the reasons for such exceptions to the presbytery and the course of study which shall be completed to satisfy the presbytery that the candidate has adequate educational preparation, which preparation would normally be demonstrated by the transcripts and degree from a college or university and a theological institution. A full account of the rationale shall be entered in the minutes of presbytery.

##### Examination Requirements (G-14.0313b)

This portion of the policy requires review every three years, including the approval of synod.

Presbytery may not waive any of the examination requirements before an inquirer or candidate has failed to receive a satisfactory grade on two attempts on any particular exam, unless the inquirer or candidate has a disability that affects the person's test-taking ability, such disability to be documented by a person or persons of the presbytery's choice. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall be authorized to select the person or persons to make the determination of disability. The CPM shall report the rationale for granting the exception; approval shall be by three-fourths vote of the presbytery. The exception shall be noted in the minutes of presbytery.

In the case of either failure on a particular exam on two attempts, or documented disability, the CPM shall appoint a special committee of three members of presbytery qualified to conduct an examination of the candidate.

The special committee shall consult with the Associate for Examinations in the Office of the General Assembly on an appropriate alternative exam or examination process, such as an oral examination, in the area of examination (see G-14.0310d) and conduct the examination. The examination will require approximately the same time to complete as would the standard exam.

The results of the exam shall be reported to the CPM and shall inform the recommendations of the CPM on future steps toward ordination.

#### Time requirements (G-14.0313c)

The presbytery shall act upon a request for an exception to the time requirements of G-14.0303, only after hearing the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry regarding the advisability of granting an exception. The exception shall be approved by a three-fourths vote of presbytery and the account of the rationale shall be included in the minutes of presbytery.

#### Reporting Exceptions to Any Presbytery Receiving an Inquirer or Candidate (G-14.0313d)

The presbytery shall always report to another presbytery considering receiving the inquirer or candidate any exceptions granted. If the presbytery receives the candidate, the presbytery has confirmed the exceptions granted and such exceptions shall be binding on that presbytery.