

STATUS AND PLACE OF LAY PREACHERS

1. The purpose of lay preachers is to meet the need for the preaching of the gospel within the Presbytery bounds which cannot otherwise be supplied. The presbytery may certify, for within the bounds of the presbytery, properly qualified men or women who shall be known as lay preachers.
2. A certified lay preacher of Geneva Presbytery shall be on the active membership roll of a Presbytery of Geneva church.
3. Churches authorized to supply their own pulpits should seek first the services of ministers whose training and years of experience better qualify them for the interpretation of scriptures and proclamation of the gospel.
4. It is clear that a Lay Preacher Certification is valid only within the bounds of the Presbytery granting it (Geneva) and should not be used as a special qualification to seek preaching assignments in other churches outside the bounds of the Presbytery.
5. The Presbytery intends the granting of the certification to apply to any of its churches.
6. The granting of a certification indicates only that the Committee on Ministry has satisfied itself that those to whom it is granted meet the qualifications of piety, knowledge of the Bible, ability to preach and teach, and motives for seeking the certification. It does not imply that all laity thus qualified are certified, nor does it imply that the Presbytery should seek preaching appointments for those holding certifications nor seek to use them in preference to ordained ministers.
7. A lay preacher will preach no more than two services a month in the same church, without approval of the Committee on Ministry.
8. In no case should a session seek to supply its pulpit for long periods of time with lay preachers instead of seeking a pastor for the church.
9. Lay preachers should receive at least the Presbytery minimum pulpit supply compensation for their services.
10. Oversight of the work of Commissioned Lay Preachers shall be by Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.
11. Lay preachers are not to initiate any contacts with churches. They are on a stand-by basis - retired ministers having preference.

Status
and
Place of
Lay
Preachers1/04
revised