

ADDENDUM Y

Criteria for Validating Ministry of Continuing Members

The Mission of the Presbytery of Geneva

Together, we pray, play, and energize our congregations to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Together, we lift up each other in love.

Together, we call others into the circle of God's grace. (Recommended Vision Statement)

Ministries which are not under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery may be approved if they serve the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20), promote the great ends of the Church (G-1.0200), fulfill the requirements of Book of Order G-11.0403, and support the Presbytery's major emphases: Congregational Transformation, Spiritual Development, and Building Relationships.

Continuing Members of Presbytery

Ordinarily, Ministers of Word and Sacrament are enrolled as Continuing Members by serving congregations in pastoral as Pastor, Associate Pastor, Interim Pastor, Stated Supply, by serving in another ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for instance in governing bodies, or as being honorably retired. Additionally, Ministers of Word and Sacrament may become continuing members of the Presbytery of Geneva while serving a ministry not under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery provided that ministry meets the requirements of the Book of Order G-11.0403 and the following criteria of the Presbytery of Geneva, and approved by Committee on Ministry.

Validated ministries within the congregations of the Presbytery

Upon approval of COM, Ministers of Word and Sacrament may also be enrolled as Continuing Members if they serve in a capacity providing pastoral or administrative services to the congregations of the presbytery such as Moderator of Session, Continual Pulpit Supply, providing frequent celebration of the sacraments within the presbytery's congregations, or being actively engaged in the work of presbytery committees. Such approval as a Continuing Member must be sought and granted annually.

Validated ministries not under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery

In general, validated ministries are those providing pastoral care, sharing the Gospel (including preaching the Word), administering the sacraments, undertaking works of compassion, justice, and peacemaking, engaging in mission (including evangelical, educational, medical, social service, community improvement, disaster assistance, or the like) in ways consistent with the missional and theological history of the PC(U.S.A.). They must be consistent with the basic tenets of the Reformed faith and practice. They must support the work, worship, and witness of the people of God and demonstrate the Good News of God's love, even if in an ecumenical or interfaith entity and not within a primarily Presbyterian or even Christian structure.

Ministries should be compatible with the vision statement of the Presbytery of Geneva and the Great Ends of the Church (G-1.0200): the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Such ministries should demonstrate appropriate standards of personal and institutional accountability, and should not be merely following individual inclinations or projects. This criterion is similar to the long-held requirement that a calling is confirmed by the voice of the larger church, not merely the individual. It is not the purpose of these validated ministry criteria to provide continuing membership to ministers employed in non-church

occupations, no matter how exemplary or pastoral their behavior on the job is; such persons might better consider serving within the congregations of the presbytery while working as “tentmakers.”

Ministries or programs under the regular oversight of Christian denominations recognized by the PC(U.S.A.) meet the criteria to be validated ministries.

The ministry must not hinder the ability of a Minister of Word and Sacrament to participate in the life and work of the presbytery of Geneva or the presbytery within the bounds the minister may labor or of other bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its overall character must not detract from the reputation and work of the presbytery or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It must not be divisive or self-glorifying. It must not violate the minister’s ordination vows or interfere with his or her obligations and discipline under the Book of Order.

Process

The Committee on Ministry will use the following procedure to review and determine whether a particular work is a validated ministry.

Upon request, COM will provide these criteria to Ministers of Word and Sacrament seeking to become Continuing Members of the Presbytery while serving a ministry not under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Geneva.

In the case of previously validated ministries, the Minister will make his or her request for Continuing Membership annually along with a brief report of the work of the previous year.

If this is a new situation or there has been a significant change, the Minister will send to COM a letter requesting Continuing Membership.

After receiving such a request, COM will arrange a meeting with the Minister and the COM or its representatives to evaluate the work to determine whether it conforms to the requirements of the Book of Order and these criteria.

If in the judgment of COM, the work meets the requirements of the Book of Order and these criteria, COM will recommend that Presbytery approve the Minister’s Continuing Membership. If COM does not recommend approval, it will communicate its decision and its reasons to the Minister within 30 days, along with the process for appealing the decision.

The Minister may appeal a COM decision not to validate the work in writing within 30 days of receiving COM’s decision.

Upon receipt of the letter appealing the decision, the COM will, within 30 days, invite the minister to a personal appearance at COM to offer additional information or arguments as to why the work should be validated. The burden of proof as to why the ministry qualifies as a validated ministry shall be upon on the Minister seeking Continuing Membership or representatives of the ministry, not the COM or the presbytery. If, upon further review, the burden of proof is met, the COM may decide to recommend approval. Notice of COM’s approval or disapproval and its reasons shall be communicated to the Minister within 14 days and reported to the Presbytery at its next regular meeting.

If the COM does not recommend approval to the Presbytery, the Minister has the right to appear before the full presbytery at the meeting at which the COM reports on its decision. The Minister and the COM shall each have opportunity to place their case before the Presbytery. The decision of the Presbytery shall be final.