

CPM PLANNING GROUP REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WORK OF THE PLANNING GROUP

The CPM Planning Group met twice and conversed by email to consider how the responsibilities of a Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM work) might be handled if they are removed from the Committee on Ministry.

We first determined that the CPM work should be removed from COM responsibilities for two reasons: (1) COM has a high workload, CPM work is different from other COM duties, and so it is difficult for COM to give the CPM work more than minimum attention; and, more importantly, (2) COM has a conflict of interest when inquirers, candidates, and candidates ready for ordination seek pastoral positions within the Presbytery of Geneva. The Presbytery currently has only one candidate under care, and she is scheduled to come before COM on February 7 to be considered for being certified ready for ordination, and to approve her Personal Information Form for circulation. After that would be an appropriate time to remove the CPM work from COM, since there are no other inquirers or candidates in our system.

We then considered alternative ways for the CPM work to be handled and identified three:

(1) **Move the CPM work to another existing Presbytery standing committee.** We considered adding the CPM duties to the existing duties of a standing committee. We concluded that people who might be called to the CPM work might not be willing to participate in the other duties of an existing standing committee (including at least two members of the Planning Group). We considered using a subcommittee of a standing committee to allow participation of those only interested in the CPM work, but the decision-making structure quickly got more complicated than the benefit warrants.

(2) **Collaborate with a neighboring Presbytery for CPM work.** We reached out to our neighboring presbyteries to consider collaborating on CPM work. We have had no response to date from the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery CPM, but that presbytery is currently without an executive, so now may not be a good time for a discussion. The Genesee Valley Presbytery CPM said it would discuss the idea at their February meeting. The planning group believes that this in a long term strategy and would take some time to explore, structure, get approvals and implement.

(3) **Create a new CPM for the Presbytery.** We finally considered creating a new CPM, and what that might look like. More details are included in our recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The CPM Planning Group makes the following recommendations:

1. Move the CPM work out of COM and create a new CPM committee to do that work. The CPM work includes the preparation for ministry of teaching elders, commissioned lay/ruling elders
2. Have COM retain responsibility for CREs after they are trained and are deemed ready for commissioning to service to a particular congregation or to the needs of the presbytery.
3. The new CPM should initially consist of 3 members, in three classes. Regular terms are for 3 years, renewable once.
4. The new CPM chair, or other delegated member, shall attend Presbytery Council meetings at least three times throughout the year to provide updates on CPM activities and whenever CPM business is on the agenda; the CPM member shall have a vote at Council on any CPM business.
5. The new CPM should include in its work:
 - a. Determining how it is to be organized to conduct its work, including whether liaisons always need to be current committee members.
 - b. Reviewing and recommending changes to The Committee on Preparation for Ministry Operations Manual for Teaching Elders / Ministers of Word & Sacrament.
 - c. Reviewing and recommending changes to the Commissioned Ruling Elder Formation Program
 - d. Continuing to explore collaboration with the CPMs of our neighboring presbyteries.
 - e. After one year, making a recommendation to the Presbytery on whether the number of members on CPM should be increased.
 - f. Meeting a minimum of four times a year for planning and training, even if there are no Inquirers, Candidates, or CRE candidates.
6. Move responsibility for nominating ordination exam readers to the Committee on Representation. This will encourage broader participation, and the current process of having the COM recommend nominees to CoR does not work well, because the names of exam readers are due to OGA by August 31, and the Presbytery often doesn't meet in the summer.
7. Complete the transfer of the CPM work from COM to the new CPM as soon as possible after approval by the Presbytery.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

1. Add a new standing committee to Section VII:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

There shall be a Committee on Preparation for Ministry whose purpose is to oversee guidance and mandates of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding preparation for ministers of Word and Sacrament, preparation of ruling elders to become commissioned pastors, and certification of Christian educators.

Membership: 3 members, with both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (3-year terms, renewable once). The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

Role on Council: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry chair, or other delegated Committee member, shall attend Presbytery Council meetings at least three times throughout the year to provide updates on Committee activities and whenever Committee business is on the agenda; the Committee member shall have a vote at Council on any Committee on Preparation for Ministry business.

Responsibilities:

- Guide, nurture and oversee the process of becoming a teaching elder, commissioned ruling elder or certified Christian educator, following the process and procedures as outlined in the Constitution of the PC(U.S.A.)
- To have the authority to dismiss candidates to another presbytery or denomination for examination and/or for ordination, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery.
- Prepare, maintain, and implement a training, and examination process for ruling elders when the presbytery's strategy for mission requires the need for commissioning to serve congregations and the needs of the presbytery.

2. Amend the third bullet of responsibilities of the Committee on Representation as follows:

- Nominate persons as ordination examination readers ~~as recommended by the Committee on Ministry.~~

3. Amend the first paragraph of the Committee on Ministry section as follows:

There shall be a Committee on Ministry whose purpose is to oversee guidance and mandates of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding ordered ministry including oversight of pastoral transitions, ~~preparation for ministry of Word and Sacrament, preparation and~~ commissioning and supervision of commissioned ruling

~~elders, and certification of Christian educators~~; and to promote healthy responses to conflict within congregations.

4. Amend the 10th bullet under Ordered Ministry responsibilities, of the Committee on Ministry section as follows:
 - Recommend to the presbytery, oversee, and supervise commissioned ruling elders called to pastoral service in congregations and to the needs of the Presbytery.
5. Delete the entire Preparations section of the Committee on Ministry responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Aaron Frank, TE Anita Milne, TE Colin Pritchard,
TE Evan Hansen, RE Catherine Foerster

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