

**POLICY #6 OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
PRESBYTERY OF SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY**

**RECEIVING MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS
(in cooperation with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry)**

Note: In most of their work the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation For Ministry have separate roles and functions. However, the two committees share a function at the point of examining ministers and candidates seeking membership within the Presbytery. In this regard the Book of Order states that examinations may be carried out through the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery (G-14.0507c). In order that the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley may be clear about the process of examining those seeking membership in the Presbytery, the COM and CPM have agreed to the following policies:

1. In the case of a minister member of another Presbytery of the PC(USA) seeking membership in the Presbytery, the appropriate committee for examination shall be the COM (G-14.0507c).
2. In the case of a minister of another denomination seeking membership in the Presbytery:
 - a. With the exception of those ministers in denominations covered by the Formula of Agreement (see #3), all the requirements of G-11.0404 and G-14.0310b shall be met. With regard to G-14.0310b the responsible committee shall be the CPM. With regard to the remaining matters covered by G-11.0404 and G-14.0500 the responsible committee shall be COM. Additional requirements may be added by either committee, provided these requirements do not exceed the Book of Order standards for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
 - b. The CPM shall report its findings with regard to academic credentials and standard ordination examinations to the COM. If examination scores and credentials are in order, the remainder of the examination process shall proceed at the discretion of the COM. A member of the CPM who is familiar with the minister's file shall be invited to sit with the COM (with voice and vote) during the COM's examination of the minister.
 - c. If the committee examination so warrants, the COM shall present the minister to the Presbytery.
3. In the case of ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ, the terms and conditions of the principles, policies and procedures of "The Orderly Exchange of Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament," (Office of the General Assembly, January 2000) shall apply.

4. In the case of a candidate of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley seeking membership within this Presbytery:
 - a. The appropriate committee for examination as to the candidate's readiness for ordination (G-14.0301) shall be the CPM. The appropriate committee for examination as to the candidate's suitability for the particular call which has been extended shall be the COM.
 - b. When the candidate is presented to the Presbytery, the COM shall first affirm that the candidate has received a validated call (G-14.0401 and G-14.0507c). The CPM shall then proceed with its report and recommendation (G-14.0402) after which the Presbytery may conduct any further examination it deems necessary.
5. In the case of a candidate of another Presbytery seeking a call in the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley (see G-14.0314).
 - a. The CPM shall be notified by COM and shall request all the necessary documentation from the candidate's Presbytery (G-14.0401, G-14.0402) and shall review the documentation for completeness. CPM shall approve or make recommendations regarding exceptions to requirements of this Presbytery for candidates preparing for ministry.
 - b. The remainder of the examination process shall proceed at the discretion of the COM. A member of the CPM who is familiar with the candidate's file shall be invited to sit with the COM (with voice and vote) during the committee's examination of the candidate.
 - c. The candidate shall be presented to the Presbytery by the COM, with any further examination the COM or the Presbytery feels necessary.
 - d. Following the successful completion of this examination and the approval of the call, the candidate shall ordinarily be ordained by their Presbytery of care before having their membership transferred to Susquehanna Valley (G-14.0314).