

VALIDATED MINISTRIES

I. Policy Statement

A teaching elder who is an active member of presbytery may be engaged in a validated ministry within congregations of this presbytery, in a validated ministry in other service to this-presbytery, or in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of this presbytery. The presbytery shall determine whether a particular work may be helpful to the presbytery's mission and is a call to a validated ministry of a teaching elder.

II. Rationale

A presbytery determines the ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are its continuing members. In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria for validation of ministries within its bounds.

III. Responsibilities

A. Presbytery Responsibilities

1. Presbytery shall be responsible for approving individuals brought to the Presbytery by COM for a validated ministry.
2. The presbytery shall review annually the work of all teaching elders engaged in validated ministries outside the congregations.
3. A teaching elder whom the presbytery determines no longer to be engaged in a validated ministry or to fulfill the criteria for membership-at-large, and who is not honorably retired, shall not have voice or vote in meetings of the presbytery, except when the matter under consideration pertains to his or her relationship to the presbytery. Names of such persons shall be reported annually to the presbytery by the stated clerk.
4. If after three years the teaching elder does not meet the criteria for validated ministry or membership-at-large, the presbytery may delete that person's name from the roll of membership and, upon request of a session, dismiss that person to a congregation.

B. Committee on Ministry (COM) Responsibilities

1. COM will review the status of Validated Ministries annually using the guidelines set forth in this policy. COM shall determine the dates and times for assessing within the guidelines of this policy.
2. The COM shall annually make recommendations to the presbytery regarding changes in membership status.

3. COM shall attempt to contact and counsel any individual who does not comply with the requirements of this policy.

C. Responsibilities of Individuals with Validated Ministry Designation

1. The individual should demonstrate the following:
 - a. Regular attendance at meetings of Presbytery
 - b. Participation in the work and word of a church congregation designated in the "Formula of Agreement".
 - c. Participation, when invited, as an active member of a Presbytery standing committee, ad-hoc committee, task force or specific Presbytery function as may be defined by the Presbytery.
 - d. Respond positively, where appropriate and when invited by the pastor, to serving as a Parish Associate with a particular church of the Presbytery of San Jose.
2. The individual shall submit an annual report to the COM.
3. Give evidence of a quality of life that models the Good News. They shall participate in a congregation, in ecumenical relationships and shall be eligible for election to the higher councils of the church and to the boards and agencies of those councils.

**APPENDIX A
DEFINITIONS**

A Validated Ministry within the Presbytery of San Jose shall:

1. demonstrate conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, *The Book of Confessions*, and the *Book of Order* of this church;
2. serve and aid others, and enable the ministry of others;
3. give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word;
4. be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served; and
5. include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA).

Service in congregations of the Presbytery of San José

An active member engaged in a validated ministry within congregations of this presbytery shall serve a particular church or churches as pastor, co-pastor, associate pastor, designated pastor, designated co-pastor, designated associate pastor, stated supply, temporary supply, interim pastor, interim associate pastor, or organizing pastor. The Presbytery also recognizes, as appropriate, the services of counselors, consultants and educators.

Service within the PC(USA)

An active member engaged in a validated ministry in other service of this church may serve

- as a staff member of a presbytery, a synod, or the General Assembly of this church or of an organization related to one of these governing bodies;

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- as a minister serving an organization sponsored by two or more denominations, one of which is this church, such as a federated church, a specialized ministry, an administrative office, or an interdenominational agency;
- as a partner in mission in connection with a church outside the United States of America;
- as a counselor, consultant or educator.

Before entering upon such service, the minister shall request and obtain the approval of the presbytery of membership. Changes in the terms of the call or dissolution of the relationship shall be reported to the presbytery.

In service beyond the jurisdiction of PC (USA)

An active member in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of PC (USA) may

- serve in a ministerial calling consistent with the mission of the presbytery in an organization, agency, or institution in which this church has no official participation, or
- serve temporarily as pastor or in some other capacity in another denomination, and may, with the approval of presbytery, accept ministerial membership in that church for the period of such service without forfeiting his or her membership in the Presbytery of San José.

Before entering upon such service the minister shall request permission of the presbytery of membership. The COM of the presbytery shall make a thorough review of the proposed ministerial function and report its recommendations to the presbytery. COM shall determine and report whether the service complies with all of the criteria for such service. If the presbytery grants the permission requested, such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually.