

PROVISIONS FOR RECEIVING CLERGY FROM OTHER DEMONINATIONS & COUNTRIES

I. Policy Statement

The Presbytery of San Jose encourages equal employment opportunity and seeks to increase the number of racial ethnic members in our denomination. These goals may be effectively fostered through the ordination of ministers of word and sacrament from other denominations. Immigrant pastors may be included in this group.

II. Rationale

The church heeds the call to share the gospel with all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin or linguistic-cultural background, etc. The advantages of having the message communicated in language and expressions within the worshiper's range of experience are recognized. In order to serve constituencies with special interests and needs, the church sees potential benefits of ministers with diverse competencies and backgrounds. Some ministers previously ordained by other denominations, in the U.S.A. or in foreign countries, may be able to bring the good news of a more abundant life in Christ to certain population groups within the Presbytery.

This policy is designed to open the opportunity to benefit from contributions of those prepared for service using other denominational guidelines while still maintaining the integrity of qualifications in understanding of Reformed Theology and Presbyterian Polity.

III. Responsibilities

A. Committee on Ministry (COM) Responsibilities

The committee shall review materials submitted by the applicant.

1. Examine credentials and evidence of good standing in the denomination from which he/she comes.
2. Examine the theological education experience of the pastor and either prescribe a course of study to overcome or forgive any experience which does not meet what is required of PC(USA) candidates, with particular attention to an acceptable level of knowledge of Reformed theology and Presbyterian polity and practice.
3. Thoughtfully assess the appropriateness of cases to be designated as needing extraordinary consideration; for example, a minister for new immigrant fellowships or congregations may be enrolled prior to meeting all of the requirements, but shall be provided with educational opportunities that seem necessary and prudent with a firm commitment made by the minister to complete requirements within a designated period of time.
4. Report compliance with all provisions for being received into membership to the presbytery.

B. Minister Responsibilities

A minister making application for membership in the presbytery shall:

1. provide evidence of good standing in the denomination where ordained,
2. furnish applicable credentials from college/ university and seminary attended,
3. articulate her/his Christian faith, demonstrating acceptable knowledge of Reformed Theology and Presbyterian Polity and Practice,
4. cooperate with the PNC of a local church or fellowship to qualify as the candidate selected,
5. be available to be examined by the presbytery in Christian faith, in Reformed Theology and Presbyterian Polity and Practice,
6. demonstrate a willingness to work with the presbytery until all requirements are fully and satisfactorily met and agree to designation as lay pastor, stated supply or other appropriate term until all provisions are met.

C. Session Responsibilities

1. The session shall provide the Pastor Nominating Committee or Associate Pastor Nominating Committee a copy of this Policy.
2. If the PNC is considering recommending a call to a minister of another denomination, notification shall be given to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry through its committee liaison. Plans will then be made so the process can proceed smoothly for both the candidate and the church.