

G-3.0306 Membership of Presbytery

Each presbytery determines the **ministers of the Word and Sacrament** who are its members and validates the ministries in which they are to be engaged. It shall be guided in this determination by written criteria developed by the presbytery for validating ministries within its bounds (G-2.0503a).

The presbytery shall examine each **minister of the Word and Sacrament** or candidate who seeks membership in it on his or her Christian faith and views in theology, the Sacraments, and the government of this church.

The presbytery may designate **ministers of the Word and Sacrament** to work as teachers, evangelists, administrators, chaplains, and in other forms of ministry recognized as appropriate by the presbytery. Those so designated may administer the Sacraments at times and places authorized by the presbytery.

*G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to **Its Pastors and Congregations***

Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to **its pastors, both ministers of the Word and Sacrament and, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (also called commissioned pastors [also known as commissioned ruling elders]), as well as the** certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, **pastors**, and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.

Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to guide, nurture and oversee the process of preparing to become a **minister of the Word and Sacrament**.

To facilitate the presbytery's oversight of inquirers and candidates, reception and oversight of **minister of the Word and Sacrament** members, approval of calls for pastoral services and invitations for temporary pastoral services, oversight of congregations without pastors, dissolution of relationships, dismissal of members, and its close relationship with both member congregations and **ministers of the Word and Sacrament**, it may delegate its authority to designated entities within the presbytery. Such entities shall be composed of ruling elders and **ministers of the Word and Sacrament** in approximately equal numbers, bearing in mind the principles of unity in diversity in F-1.0403. All actions carried out as a result of delegated authority must be reported to the presbytery at its next regular meeting.