



Guide for One Discerning a Call to Ministry in the PC(USA)

A Resource of National Capital Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

The Spirit is moving, and you are discerning a call to ministry. Amen! Here are the next steps in preparation for ministry:

Discerners must be a member of a church (active at least 6 months) and receive an endorsement of your home church's session. Session assigns a home church liaison.	Form 1A , 1B & 1C (you) Form 1D (session) Send transcripts (you)
Email forms 1A-1C to Tempest Davis at comadmin@thepresbytery.org . Confirm with her receipt of Form 1D from your session. She will send you instructions to complete a psychological assessment, which will cost approx. \$1850. The cost is divided among the presbytery (40%), session (30%), and applicant (30%). If you need financial support, indicate that in your email. Scholarship funds are based on availability.	
When results of the psychological assessment come in, you will be assigned to a Liaison Group (LG) and a liaison who will help schedule you for your first meeting with the LG to discuss becoming an Inquirer. Pending a recommendation from your Liaison Group and a vote from CPM, you will be enrolled with the presbytery as an Inquirer. Inquirer phase usually lasts 1 year (and can take longer). You will need to meet annually with your Liaison Group for a consultation as long as you are an Inquirer or Candidate. If you have completed seminary or are near completing it, ask your LG about the expedited ordination process.	Form 2A (you/LG) Form 2B (you/LG/session) Annual Consultations: Form 3 (you) Form 4 (LG/you)
Ordination exams/alternate means exams/equivalent assessments will be taken during Inquiry and Candidacy. Discuss exam schedule with your liaison. LGs need to approve exams (except Bible Content, which can be taken at any time).	PC(USA) ordination exam schedule
After one year, and/or as discernment unfolds, meet with your Church Session to receive their recommendation that you be enrolled as a Candidate . Schedule a time with your Liaison Group to discuss becoming a candidate. Pending a recommendation of your Liaison Group and CPM vote, you will be enrolled with Presbytery as a candidate. You must be a candidate for 1 full year, unless enrolled in the expedited process.	Form 5A (you) Form 5B (session) Form 5C (LG and you) Form 5D (you, LG & session) Outcomes of Inquiry (see CPM Manual)
Many people take Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE, strongly recommended) and complete seminary during candidacy. Complete Forms 3 and 4 for any annual consultations during this time (the same as for inquiry).	Form 3 (you) Form 4 (LG/you)
Prepare for Final Assessment (FA), by providing your Liaison Group with date of seminary graduation, date of ordination exam completion(s), written description of supervised ministry, 1 page statement of faith, sermon, and one paragraph answers to each of the ordination questions and one paragraph sense of call.	See CPM manual for more on Final Assessment requirements.
Schedule and complete Final Assessment with an FA team. Pending the completion of your Final Assessment, you will be determined to be certified ready to receive a call. Following determination, check in annually with LG until you accept a call.	

Discernment continues throughout this time. Your team is there to support and walk with you. Best Contacts:

Your Pastor, Clerk of Session, Session Liaison

Your Liaison and Liaison Group

CPM Chair

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