

POLICY FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS  
Presbytery of Cincinnati  
Approved and Effective: March 13, 2007

**Whereas** the Presbyterian Church (USA) has encouraged and recommended that local congregations perform background checks of their pastors, staff and volunteers (especially those working with youth and children i.e. Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and others who are in an overnight or similar situations with children and youth according to a recommended church's child protection plan); and

**Whereas** the Presbytery of Cincinnati has affirmed these recommendations on numerous occasions; and

**Whereas** the insurance company serving the Presbytery of Cincinnati (Insurance Board) can provide background checks at a modest cost through Praesidium Inc.;

**Therefore the Presbytery of Cincinnati will require** background checks for the following:

- teaching elders, serving churches in temporary or permanent positions
- presbytery staff
- ruling elders commissioned to or in training for limited pastoral service
- Certified Christian Educators serving churches
- inquirers and candidates under care of the presbytery

No contract or call to any of the above positions shall be finalized and approved until the full results of the background check have been reviewed by the General Presbyter. Expect receipt of the full results to take approximately one week.

**The Presbytery of Cincinnati also strongly recommends** that individual churches conduct background checks of their church staff and for all church volunteers who may work with children and youth. We also strongly recommend that a Motor Vehicle Search be conducted for those authorized to drive church-owned vehicles (many insurance carriers will require it). The particular church will pay for these background checks; if the church does not have access to a background checking system, the Presbytery may be asked to provide the service, and to charge the particular church for the cost.