



Enrollment of Ministers of Other Christian Churches for Temporary Service And Validation of Ministry Policy – 2021

If, during the approved search process, a session identifies a pastor who is not a minister of the Word and Sacrament or a Commissioned Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to serve as its pastor, the session may request that the Presbytery of Cincinnati (“Presbytery”) approve a minister of “another Christian church” (G-2.0506) to serve their congregation in a temporary pastoral relationship. Service by individuals who are minister members of denominations in full communion or correspondence with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is governed by the Book of Order, not this policy.

The Presbytery may validate the ministry of a minister of another Christian church to service in a temporary pastoral relationship when the following conditions have been met: ● satisfaction of the requirements of preparation for such service according to the Presbytery’s own rules; and ● enrollment as a temporary member of the Presbytery, having affirmed the order and discipline of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in a manner satisfactory to the Presbytery.

The minister shall be subject to examination by the Commission on Ministry (COM). Following successful examination, COM will recommend validation of the applicant for temporary pastoral service by the Presbytery on the floor of Presbytery allowing for questions and clarification. A member of the Presbytery may request examination of the minister of the floor of Presbytery. Final approval shall be by vote of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery, in its validation, may authorize the minister to preach and lead worship, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. The Presbytery, in its validation, may also authorize the minister to moderate the session of the congregation with which he or she is approved to serve and to moderate congregational meetings, after a period of evaluation by a member of the Presbytery and the COM.

Approval of a validated ministry is valid for up to one year and authorizes the holder to perform only the ministerial functions named in the validation for the requesting congregation. The validated ministry may be renewed for successive one-year terms upon agreement of the congregation’s session, the minister, and the Presbytery through its agency or commission, following a review by COM at the end of each term. The COM may at any time withdraw the validation of the minister and request the Presbytery to remove the minister from its rolls for reasons it deems good and sufficient.

By enrolling in the Presbytery, the individual is accountable to the Presbytery and subject to its jurisdiction for all purposes, including discipline. While enrolled temporarily in the Presbytery, the individual may also retain membership in their other denomination or Christian church. Enrollment in the Presbytery will end once the individual’s validated ministry has concluded.

During the tenure of the temporary service and once enrolled in the Presbytery, the individual shall ordinarily attend all meetings of the Presbytery and be seated as a minister with voice and vote.