

POLICY AND PROCESS FOR THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRIES PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA

The *Book of Order* requires each presbytery to develop a policy and process whereby all of its active members participate in a validated ministry (G-11.0403). Guided by the *Book of Order*, the presbytery has as its criteria for validated ministry the following: The description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0200 and the following standards:

- a. The ministry of continuing members shall be in demonstrable conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, *The Book of Confessions*, and the *Book of Order* of this church.
- b. The ministry shall be one that serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others.
- c. The ministry shall give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word. This will normally require the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and the completion of the requirements for ordination set forth in G-14.0402.
- d. The ministry shall be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery and to organizations, agencies, and institutions.
- e. The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship and service of a congregation.

A minister of the Word and Sacrament who is an active member of presbytery may be engaged (1) in a validated ministry within congregations of this church, (2) in a validated ministry in other service of this church, (3) in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of this church, and may be (4) honorably retired.

The presbytery assumes that all ministers in categories 1, 2 and 4 meet the criteria listed above for validated ministry and therefore are not required to follow a special process for validation.

With regard to those who fall into category 3, the following process must be followed if they wish to have their ministries validated by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

- a. They should appear before the COM's Subcommittee for Pastoral Care & Oversight of the Committee on Ministry.
- b. They should present a letter containing the following information:
 1. description of the ministry;
 2. a rationale for the appropriateness of the ministry being performed by an ordained minister;
 3. a statement of the intent and mode of participation in presbytery and local congregation.
- c. They should present a letter from the employing organization describing the organization, the nature of its call of the candidate for validation, and a request that such a ministry be validated.

The validation must be approved by the subcommittee and recommended to the Committee on Ministry for adoption by the presbytery. If this process is completed and the ministry is validated by action of presbytery, the validation shall remain in force as long as the terms of validation remain in force. It shall be the responsibility of the minister to so inform the subcommittee when the terms are no longer in force.

If the subcommittee denies the application, the candidate for validation may appeal the decision to the Committee on Ministry and in turn to presbytery.

12/07/06 Approved by Presbytery