

Validated Ministries in the Presbytery of Long Island A.04.03
Policy

The intent of a validated ministry process is to support creativity and the “doing of new things” while also conforming to G-2.0503. An active member... may be engaged in a ministerial calling consonant with the mission of the presbytery in an organization, agency or institution in which this church has no official participation....before entering upon such service the minister shall request permission of the presbytery of membership... If the presbytery grants the permission, such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually.

Ultimately a minister serving in a validated ministry continues in direct relationship with the COM and the Presbytery. His or her gifts and experiences are to be shared with the larger body and celebrated by that body.

Criteria for ministry validation:

1. The ministry shall be in line with the mission of the Presbytery. (G-2.0503)
2. The ministry shall adhere to the essentials of the Reformed faith and polity as expressed in the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions* and in conformity with the mission of God’s people in the world as set forth in Scripture. (G-2.0503)
3. The ministry makes active and effective use of the biblical and theological training that is required for ordination. (G-2.0501)
4. The ministry shall exercise pastoral care to those for whom its staff are responsible. The ministry shall serve Christ and humanity, strengthen the church and equip it for service to the human community. (G-2.0501)
5. Those involved in validated ministry outside a congregation shall participate in the worship of a local congregation, in their presbytery, and in ecumenical relationships and shall be eligible for election to the higher governing bodies of the church and the boards and agencies of those governing bodies. (G-2.0503a5)
6. Those engaged in validated ministries shall be accountable to the Presbytery. (G-2.0503)

Ordinarily, the Committee on Ministry will validate the following ministries:

1. Chaplain, pastor and/or Clinical Pastoral Educations supervisor/leader in a health care, educational, armed services or penal institution.
2. Teacher of religious studies in an accredited secondary school, college, university or seminary.
3. Teacher of any subject, or member of the administration or staff, at an accredited educational institution related to the PC(USA) or to another Christian church or denomination with whom the PC(USA) is in correspondence.
4. Staff member of another Christian church or denomination in correspondence with the PC(USA), an interdenominational agency or an ecumenical shared ministry.
5. Mission co-worker, fraternal worker, or volunteer in mission, as validated by the PC(USA) or by another Christian agency
6. Minister serving a congregation of another Christian church or denomination with whom the PC(USA) is in correspondence.
7. Staff member of an organization or interest group whose purpose is to support and advocate for particular points-of-view within the PC(USA).

Process for validating a ministry:

1. The applicant will complete the validated ministry application (see attached) and submit it to the Committee on Ministry (COM).
2. COM will consult with the applicant regarding the details of the application and the responsibilities of a member of Presbytery engaged in validated ministry.
3. Validation for the ministry shall be for the calendar year. COM will review the validation annually and make a determination regarding its continuation.

Application for the Validation of a Ministry

Applicant's name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Work _____ Home _____

Email(s) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

1. Mark the descriptor that best applies to the ministry you seek to have validated (from *Book of Order, G-2.0501*)

- Primary emphasis is given to deeds of love and mercy
- Primary emphasis is given to work that is primarily educational
- Primary emphasis is given to work that is primarily administrative
- Primary emphasis is given to work that is primarily legislative
- Primary emphasis is given to work that is primarily judicial
- Primary emphasis is given to work that is primarily prophetic
- Primary emphasis is given to work that is primarily other than any of the above.
Explain _____

2. State either (a) the governing body or agency as defined in G-2.0503 from which you have a call for which you seek permission from this Presbytery. Please attach a copy of the call or contract, if any, under which you work, and of your position description.

3. Describe the ways the ministry which you seek to have validated is in 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*. (G-2.0503a1)

4. Describe the ways in which the ministry which you seek to have validated serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others. (G-2.0503a2)

5. Describe the ways in which the ministry which you seek to have validated requires theologically informed fidelity to God's Word. (G-2.0503a1)

6. Describe the ways in which the ministry which you seek to have validated is consonant with the mission of this Presbytery (G-2.0503a5): *The Presbytery of Long Island will create lively ministry so that all may hear, embrace and enjoy new life in Jesus Christ.*

8. Describe how your ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament is essential to your work.

9. How might the Presbytery, as your faith community, help you in your ministry in the coming year?

Presbytery
November, 2007
March 2015