

The Sub-Committee of the Committee on Ministry appointed to propose policy regarding "Continuing Membership and Validated Ministries" recommends the following as the policy of the Committee on Ministry of Savannah Presbytery. (Much of this reflects the results of the work of Hudson River Presbytery as it engaged in a similar study.)

## **POLICY OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REGARDING "CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP" AND "VALIDATED MINISTRIES" CONTINUING MEMBERS**

In addition to the "Criteria for Ministry of Continuing Members" found in G-6.0100, G-6.0200, and G-11.0403, the following shall apply:

1. A Continuing Member shall take the initiative in establishing an active relationship to the Presbytery evidenced by regular attendance. Regular attendance shall normally be understood to consist of attendance in at least two (2) of the Stated Meetings each year, and proper request for excused absences when needed. Honorably Retired members are encouraged to attend meetings but are not required to request an excused absence.
2. A Continuing Member shall exhibit and implement willingness to serve with the various committees and task groups of Presbytery.
3. A Continuing Member shall be:
  - a. working with a documented and approved call to (or contract with) a particular congregation or governing body, OR
  - b. honorably retired, OR
  - c. a Member At Large as approved by the Committee on Ministry, OR
  - d. engaged in a work defined in G-11.0411 for which the Presbytery shall give its permission by validating it a ministry "In Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of the Church" (commonly known as "Validated Ministries").

### **VALIDATED MINISTRIES**

Minister members of the Presbytery of Savannah may be engaged in Validated Ministries within congregations (G-11.0409), within governing bodies of the church, in ecumenical agencies, specialized ministries under the control of the church, and interdenominational agencies (G-11.0410); or engaged in validated ministries beyond the jurisdiction of the church (G-11.0411), providing that the ministry meets the following criteria:

1. The ministry shall be approved by the Presbytery through its Committee on Ministry before the member enters into such service. (G-11.0411)
2. The ministry shall be in harmony with the mission of the Presbytery. (G-11.0411)
3. The ministry shall be in conformity with the mission of the people of God as set forth in Scripture and adhere to the essentials of the Reformed Faith and Polity as expressed in the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions*. (G-6.0108, G-11.0403)
4. The ministry shall make active and effective use of the Biblical and theological training that is required for ordination. (G-11.0403)

5. The ministry shall exercise pastoral care to those for whom they are responsible. The ministry shall serve Christ and humanity, strengthen the church, and help to equip it for service to the human family. (G-6.0203)
6. Those involved in validated ministries outside of a congregation shall participate in worship in a local congregation. They shall participate in their presbytery and in ecumenical relationships. They shall be eligible for election to the higher governing bodies of the church and to boards and agencies of those governing bodies. (G-11.0403)
7. Those engaged in the validated ministry shall be accountable to the Presbytery which has validated their ministry for the character and conduct of that ministry. They may also be accountable to other appropriate organizations and agencies. (G-11.0403)
8. A description of ministries which may be proposed to the Committee on Ministry for approval which do not specifically fit these criteria should be presented to the Committee on Ministry for further consideration in accordance with G-6.0108, G-6.0213.

Respectfully submitted with special thanks to our Stated Clerk Russell Gladding,

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