

APPENDIX F

New Castle Presbytery's Policy on Examinations

F.1001 - Examinations of candidates for membership in New Castle Presbytery shall be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual, is faithful to Reformed theology, is useful as a practice for spiritual formation, that demonstrates a spirit of graciousness toward one another, that confirms the fit and manner of life that is faithful to Reformed theology, and that demonstrates a spirit of graciousness toward one another. The examination process (as set forth in F-1002 and F-1003 below) shall apply both to Ministers of Word and Sacrament and to Ruling Elders seeking commissioning to a particular pastoral service.

F.1002 - The examination shall take the form of a conversation based on the Constitutional Questions for Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning set forth in W-4.4003, with the candidate being asked to consider each of the Constitutional questions in turn, in the form: "What does this question mean to you?"

F.1003 - Three additional questions shall be included in the examination conversation:

1. How do you understand the phrase "submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ"?
2. How is your understanding of the phrase "submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ" expressed in your life?
3. How might a church best "submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ"?

F.1004 - In the interest of affirming suitability of a candidate for a particular position, the Examinations and Credentials Team of COMC (as defined in F.1005) will verify that the candidate and the pastor nominating committee (PNC) (or other search body involved) have both discussed the particular church's tone, tenor, and theological leanings.

F.1005 - The Examinations and Credentials Team of three (3) to five (5) members shall include persons of theological diversity and persons knowledgeable of the theological position of the church involved. The Examinations and Credentials Team shall include, but not be limited to, COMC members. In the case of a Minister of Word and Sacrament seeking a position within the Presbytery, the team shall conduct the examination prior to announcement of the candidate to the

congregation involved and the calling of a congregational meeting at which the Minister of Word and Sacrament is to be a candidate (or calling of a session meeting in the case of an interim pastoral candidate). If the team has concerns as a result of the examination, it will immediately report these concerns to the PNC (or session) of the church involved and to the COMC. The COMC will then stop the process so that the concerns can be addressed. Any scruple declared by a candidate will be brought before a meeting of the Presbytery for review.

F.1006 - The Presbytery specifically delegates the responsibility to examine and approve pastoral relationships to the COMC. This includes actions to:

- 1) Examine and Receive Minister of Word and Sacrament into New Castle Presbytery;
- 2) Dismiss Minister of Word and Sacrament to other presbyteries;
- 3) Dissolve a pastoral relationship (including approval of the dissolution agreement) in cases in which the pastor and congregation concur;
- 4) Authorize Minister of Word and Sacrament to labor within the bounds of New Castle Presbytery;
- 5) Authorize Minister of Word and Sacrament members to labor outside the bounds of New Castle Presbytery;
- 6) Approve membership-at-large and inactive membership in the Presbytery

These actions by the COMC shall be reported to the Presbytery at the next stated meeting.

F.1007 - Following examination and approval by the COMC, the Minister of Word and Sacrament will be introduced and welcomed into the Presbytery at the earliest possible Presbytery meeting.

The introduction and welcome shall include:

- 1) The pastor's Statement of Faith and Faith Journey which will be included in the Presbytery Docket Packet
- 2) The pastor's brief (two minute or less) oral presentation of statement of the Statement of Faith and Faith Journey, and,
- 3) One question each from the Chair of the Committee on Ministry, and the Chair of the Committee on Preparation for Missional Ministry or their designees.

F.1008 – Candidates for the ministry who are Certified Ready to Receive a Call and have received a valid call shall go before the full Presbytery to be introduced, examined and approved. The examination on the floor of the Presbytery shall be limited to:

- 1) An introduction by the COMC and the calling congregation
- 2) The candidate's brief (two minute or less) presentation of their Statement of Faith and Faith Journey – included in the Docket Packet.
- 3) An initial question from the Chair of the COMC or their designee.
- 4) Questions from the floor of the Presbytery regarding the candidate's Statement of Faith and Faith Journey.