

Policy for Ministers from other Denominations Seeking to Serve in an Installed or Temporary Pastoral Relationship Role

1. When a congregation requires pastoral or temporary pastoral leadership and would like to consider a candidate whose ordination in good standing, prior service, and/or training are not in a denomination in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the session of that congregation shall consult formally with the Committee on Ministry before any formal or informal conversations are conducted with any such candidate.
2. Through its assigned liaisons and its appropriate Examinations Subcommittee, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry shall determine whether, when, and to what extent the person's ability to lead, teach, preach, and provide pastoral care may or may not serve the present and future mission and vision of the congregation in a manner consistent with Presbyterian theology and polity, and the ethos of The Presbytery of Arkansas and the Presbyterian Church (USA). This determination shall be made in a formal examination by the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee and approved by the Committee on Ministry.
3. In addition, in order to preside at the Lord's Supper or to celebrate a baptism or be the officiant for a session-authorized wedding of the PCUSA congregation, a potential pastor, temporary pastor, minister, or leader whose credentials in good standing are in a denomination not in full communion with the PCUSA, shall normally be required to pursue pre-approved coursework in the following areas:
 - a. Reformed Theology (*Book of Confessions*)
 - b. Reformed Understanding of the Sacraments (*Book of Confessions* and "Directory for Worship")
 - c. Presbyterian Polity (*Book of Order*)
4. Following the completion of the above coursework or its equivalent, the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry shall examine the candidate again and may—at the Committee on Ministry's sole discretion—specifically authorize the individual to exercise one or more of the following pastoral functions if it judges the exercise of that function by that individual to be desirable for the church's ongoing ministry:
 - a. Presiding at the Lord's Supper
 - b. Celebrating a baptism
 - c. Serving as the officiant for a session-authorized wedding of the congregation

Such authorization shall apply only to the congregation, context, and time-frame specified by the Committee on Ministry.

5. In no event shall a pastor, temporary pastor, minister, or other leader whose ordination, prior service, and training are not in a denomination in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA) moderate the Session of a congregation of the Presbytery of Arkansas unless and until such leader is enrolled as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery of Arkansas, or ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

*Approved by Presbytery February 11, 2017
Revised February 10, 2018*