

Presbytery of Western North Carolina Special Requirements

The General Assembly has set requirements for candidates to be ordained. Those are outlined as part of the process. (See attached.)

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina, like most presbyteries, has additional requirements. Our Presbytery's special requirements are as follows:

- I. Personal and Career Counseling:** Comprehensive, in-depth career counseling is offered by the Church Career Development Center in Charlotte. This process is helpful in understanding how values, interests, potential, acquired capabilities and personality fit into a vocational choice. These reports are reviewed by the inquirer/candidate and shared with the committee. This helps the committee to be supportive. This career counseling is normally paid for by the Session. If done elsewhere, at a greater expense, arrangements will need to be made. This counseling is required before a person can become a candidate.

The candidate needs to call Dr. Lenore Wilkinson (704/554-9222) to set up an appointment. This is normally a two-day process.

- II. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE):** One unit of CPE is required. CPE consists of 400 hours of supervised education, generally in a hospital or hospice environment. Many presbyteries require this and most seminaries include it as an option in their program.
- III. Supervised Ministry or Field Education:** Supervised ministry is a requirement in the *Book of Order*. (G.2.0606, "Inquirers and candidates shall, with the permission of the presbytery of care, engage in some form of supervised service to the church..") We want to be sure it is at least an intensive summer internship or a part-time internship for two semesters, ordinarily with a PC(USA) pastor.
- IV. Presbyterian Polity Course:** This course is now optional at most seminaries. Our Presbytery requires that you take a Presbyterian Polity course. It is suggested that it be scheduled before ordination exams.
- V. Reformed Theology:** Our Presbytery requires that you take theology courses that include reformed theology. It is suggested this be taken before the ordination exams.
- VI. Presbyterian Seminary:** Because you are seeking to be a Minister of the Word and Sacrament for the PC(USA), we strongly urge you to attend a PC(USA) seminary. If you attend a seminary that is not Presbyterian (PCUSA), it is required you attend a year at a Presbyterian Seminary or similar exposure to the life and thought of the PC(USA), as determined by CPM. Concerns about this requirement should be explored as soon as possible with your Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- VII. Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis Course.**
- VIII. Greek and New Testament Exegesis Course.**
- IX. Preaching and Worship Course.**

Other Considerations:

- I. Church Internship:** If you have not had experience within a church, we suggest you consider taking a year-long internship. In this year-long church experience, you would learn first-hand about the pastor's work and the internal workings of a congregation. This would offer additional experience in preaching, teaching and pastoral care. It would also help you determine what areas of ministry you find most fulfilling and identify areas of growth.
- II. Ordination Exams:** You must pass all five ordination exams before the CPM can allow you to circulate your Personal Information Form (resume). Therefore, take these exams as soon as possible. The Bible Content Exam may be taken in February after your first semester. Currently, the others cannot be taken before the completion of two years of seminary.