

Presbytery of San Jose

POLICY 27: VALIDATED MINISTRIES

I. POLICY STATEMENT

All ministers engaged in a "Validated Ministry" within the Presbytery of San Jose shall

- A. Comply with section G-11.403 (a-e) of the Book of Order as thus stated
 - a. *The ministry of continuing members shall be in demonstrable 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 of this church.*
 - b. *The ministry shall be one that serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others.*
 - c. *The ministry shall give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word. This will normally require the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and the completion of the requirements for ordination set forth in G-14.0402.*
 - d. *The ministry shall be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery and to organizations, agencies, and institutions.*
 - e. *The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship and service of a congregation.*

B. Conform to the following definitions

G-11.0408 Validated Ministries

A minister of the Word and Sacrament who is an active member of presbytery may be engaged (1) in a validated ministry within congregations of this church, (2) in a validated ministry in other service of this church, (3) in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of this church, or may be (4) honorably retired.

G-11.0409 Service in Congregations of This Church

An active member engaged in a validated ministry within congregations of this church shall serve a particular church or churches as pastor, co-pastor, associate pastor, designated pastor, designated co-pastor, designated associate pastor, stated supply, temporary supply, interim pastor, interim associate pastor, or organizing pastor as provided in G-6.0202, G-14.0501, and G-14.0513. (The Presbytery also recognizes, as appropriate, the services of counselors, consultants and educators.)

G-11.0410 In Other Service of This Church

An active member engaged in a validated ministry in other service of this church shall serve as a staff member of a presbytery, a synod, or the General Assembly of this church or of an organization related to one of these governing bodies; as a minister serving an organization sponsored by two or more denominations, one of which is this church, such as a federated church, a specialized ministry, an administrative office, or an interdenominational agency; as a partner in mission in connection with a church outside the United States of America. Before entering upon such service, the minister shall request and obtain the approval of the presbytery of membership. Changes in the terms of the call or dissolution of the relationship shall be reported to the presbytery.

G-11.4011 In Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of the Church

An active member engaged in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of the church 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 or may serve temporarily as pastor or in some other capacity in another denomination, and may, with the approval of presbytery, accept ministerial membership in that church for the period of such service without forfeiting his or her membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presbytery in which he or she holds membership. Before entering upon such service the minister shall request permission of the presbytery of membership. The committee on ministry of the presbytery shall make a thorough review of the proposed ministerial function and report its recommendations to the presbytery. The committee shall determine and report whether the service complies with all of the criteria enumerated in G-11.0403, without exception. If the presbytery grants the permission requested, such permission shall be subject to review and renewal annually.

1. For “Validated Ministries” falling under G-11.0411 the individual shall provide the Committee on Ministry the following documentation no later than 60 days after the annual review of said individual.
 - a. A current Job Description
 - b. A current Financial Renumeration Statement including all aspects of the remuneration (income, expense account, housing, pension, health care coverage, etc.).
 - c. The individual’s Annual Review from their manager/supervising body.

Note: *The Presbytery realizes that there are situations where these items may not be available. In those circumstances the individual may request a waiver from the Presbytery (through COM) of these documents. Granting of a waiver shall require the individual to include in their annual report or by separate document a report addressing items “a” and “b”. Failure to comply with these requirements shall result in a review of the “Validated Ministry” by the Committee on Ministry (COM) and may result in a recommendation to Presbytery to move the individual to “Inactive Status” or removal from Presbytery membership.*

- C. Require submission by the individual of an annual report by the end of each February. Failure to submit an Annual Report shall result in a review of the “Validated Ministry” by the Committee on Ministry (COM) and *may* result in a recommendation to Presbytery to move the individual to “Inactive Status”.

II. RATIONALE

Section G-11.0403 of the Book of Order states:

A presbytery shall determine the ministers of the Word and Sacrament who shall be its continuing members. In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the presbytery for validation of ministries within its bounds. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0200...

Sections G-11.0408 thru 11.0411 provides further guidance regarding what working conditions create a “Validated Ministry”.

In addition to the requirement of written criteria, a clear process for loving support and oversight is healthy for the relationship between individuals in “Validated Ministries” and the Presbytery of San Jose. This is especially true for “Ministries” that fall into “Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of the Church” (Section G-11.4011).

It is with this understanding that the Presbytery of San Jose adopts this policy for “Validated Ministries”.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Presbytery

Presbytery shall:

1. Be responsible for approving and removing individuals for a “Validated Ministry”
2. Act on recommendations regarding a “Validated Ministry” brought to the Presbytery by COM

B. Committee on Ministry (COM) Responsibilities:

1. COM will review the status of “Validated Ministries” annually using the guidelines set forth in this policy and the Book of Order. *Note: COM shall determine the dates and times for assessing within the guidelines of this policy.*
2. The COM shall report recommended changes in membership status to the Presbytery of San Jose for consideration and action.
3. COM shall attempt to provide appropriate contact and counseling to any individual who does not comply with the requirements of this policy.
4. COM shall report to Presbytery the recommended actions, as specified in I.B.1 and or I.C for any individual not meeting the requirements of these Policy sections.

C. Individuals with a “Validated Ministry” designation

1. At a minimum COM shall consider the following when determining the status of a “Validated Ministry”.
 - a. Regular attendance at meetings of Presbytery.
 - b. Participation in the work and word of a church congregation designated in the “Formula of Agreement”.
 - c. Participation, when invited, as an active member of a Presbytery standing committee, ad-hoc committee, task force or specific Presbytery function as may be defined by the Presbytery.
 - d. Respond positively, where appropriate and when invited by the pastor, the serving as a Parish Associate with a particular church of the Presbytery of San Jose (G-14.0525).
2. A person with a “Validated Ministry” designation shall report to Presbytery through COM as specified in Section I.B.1 of this policy.