

Presbytery of San José

POLICY 8: MEMBER-AT-LARGE

I. Policy Statement

A. The Presbytery of San Jose shall consider requests for “Member-at-Large” status upon recommendation from the Committee on Ministry (COM) and in compliance with the following provisions of the Book of Order.

Section G-11.0406b of the Book of Order states that:

A member-at-large is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who has previously been admitted to the presbytery or another presbytery as an active member, and who now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, is no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-11.0403. A minister may be designated a member-at-large because he or she is limited in his or her ability to engage in a ministry fulfilling all of the criteria for a validated ministry because of family responsibilities or other individual circumstances which presbytery recognizes as important. A member at large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 as possible and shall be encouraged to become a parish associate in a congregation. A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of the presbytery and to speak, vote, and hold office. The status of each member-at-large may be granted by the presbytery upon the minister’s application and shall be reviewed annually.

B. Ministers seeking a “Member-at-Large” designation shall submit their request to the Committee on Ministry (COM) for consideration. COM shall consider requests and shall make a recommendation to Presbytery based on the individual circumstances of the individual.

C. At a minimum COM shall consider the following when determining a member-at-large status.

1. Regular attendance at meetings of Presbytery
2. Participation in the work and word of a church congregation designated in the “Formula of Agreement”.

3. 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.
4. Respond positively, where appropriate and when invited by the pastor, to serving as a Parish Associate with a particular church of the Presbytery of San Jose (G-14.0525).

II. Rationale

- A. Those ministers wishing to retain active membership status within the Presbytery of San Jose shall comply with all pertinent portions of the Book of Order in determining active membership status as a member-at-large. (G-11.0406b)
- B. The Presbytery of San Jose recognizes that there are a variety of circumstances that may prohibit a Minister of the Word from participating in a validated ministry. Such circumstances include but are not limited to:
 - ◆ Child birth and rearing
 - ◆ Caregiving
- C. The Presbytery, being guided by the Book of Order, takes seriously the specific paragraph G-11.0406b, which states, *“A member at large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 as possible and shall be encouraged to become a parish associate in a congregation.”*

Therefore, the Presbytery of San Jose adopts this Policy for Members at Large

III. Responsibilities

A. Committee on Ministry (COM) Responsibilities:

1. COM shall consider and include in any recommendations to Presbytery the following in requests for a “Member-at-Large” designation.
 - a. Circumstances of the request
 - b. Additional parameters beyond those specified in Section I. B may be required. Additional parameters may include but are not limited to requirements for circulating a PIF, participation in counseling or other parameters as deemed appropriate by COM and the Presbytery.

2. COM shall review the status of "Member-At-Large" annually using the guidelines in the Book of Order and those stated above. *Note: COM shall determine the dates and times for assessing when an annual review is called for.*
3. The COM shall report recommended changes in membership status to the Presbytery of San Jose for consideration and action.
4. COM shall provide appropriate counseling to any "Member-At-Large" who is unable to take a validat ministry for a three year period.
5. COM shall report to Presbytery the recommended actions for any individual completing their fourth year as a "Member-At-Large".

B. "Member At Large" Ministers

1. "Members-At-Large" shall be active in the Presbytery as stated in Section I. C.
2. "Members-At-Large" shall be actively involved in the life of a congregation as specified in Section I. C. 2
3. "Members-At-Large" shall inform the Presbytery of their activities as specified in Section I. C. 3