

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Presbytery of New Harmony approved 8-18-20)

Purpose: The purpose of **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** (CPM) is to guide, nurture, support, and supervise persons as they discern/explore God's call to ordination as ministers of Word and Sacrament (TE), assessing individual calls and skills for ministry and overseeing all the appropriate requirements of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.) and requirements specific to NHP and for each individual.

Accountability: CPM shall be accountable to the NHP.

Membership: CPM shall consist of nine (9) voting members rotating in three (3) classes of three (3), comprised of ministers of Word and Sacrament (TE) and Ruling Elders (RE) in numbers as nearly equal as possible, nominated by CORN and elected by NHP. These persons will preferably have knowledge/experience in Presbyterian/Reformed theology and polity, spiritual discernment, theological education, current trends in church life and the PCUSA call process. The term of service is three (3) years with the eligibility to serve two full terms or a maximum of six (6) consecutive years. The chair shall also be nominated by CORN and elected by NHP for a one year term, which may be renewable. The Personnel Committee shall appoint any staff liaison/s who shall be ex officio members with voice but no vote. The NHP Moderator shall be an ex officio member with voice and no vote.

Meetings: CPM will usually meet monthly and as necessary.

Responsibilities:

The CPM shall have commission powers to act on behalf of and with the full authority of the presbytery in the following ways for those who are pursuing ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament (TE) (G-2.06):

1. Authorized and manage such third party assessments as may be required for inquirers and candidates, including psychological assessments and background screening.
2. Admit and dismiss persons to inquirer status.
3. Examine persons for candidate status, deciding upon whether to recommend them to NHP for enrollment.
4. Transfer inquirers and candidates to other presbyteries and receive inquirers and candidates by transfer from other presbyteries.
5. Conduct annual and other consultations with inquirers and candidates.
6. Approve candidates to sit for the standard ordination examinations.
7. Certify candidates ready to receive a call, grant them permission to circulate their Personal Information Form (PIF), and grant them permission to negotiate for service.
8. Approve readers for the standard examinations for ordination at the request of the General Assembly by the presbytery (G-2.0607d and G-30302b).

In addition, the CPM is responsible for the following:

1. Fulfill the responsibilities outlined in G-2.0601, maintaining covenantal oversight, supervision, and care of all those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament, under the care and jurisdiction of the Presbytery, and others pursuing theological education, taking care to attend to all requirements specified in the Book of Order.
2. Educate and support sessions on the importance of encouraging members to explore God's call to vocational ministry, educating, supporting, and partnering with sessions and pastors in encouraging persons to explore God's call to vocational ministry, with particular attention to people of color.
3. Consult with and counsel pastors and Sessions regarding their members who are inquirers and candidates.
4. Communicate with pastors, Sessions, and seminaries/theological institutions regarding their members and students, respectively, who are inquirers and candidates.
5. Report to NHP regularly.
6. Administer scholarships NHP may establish for inquirers and candidates.
7. Review and revise its policies and procedures regularly, not less than annually.
8. Prepare and propose an annual budget.