

MINISTER MEMBERSHIP POLICY
Presbytery of the James
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the meaning of being a minister member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) within the Presbytery of the James. The policy, based upon the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and attempts to follow the letter as well as the spirit of the law as outlined in the *Book of Order*.

The policy has the following sections: (1) Definitions of and required criteria for continuing minister members of the Presbyterian Church (USA); (2) List of rolls maintained by the Stated Clerk; (3) Annual calendar and process for reviewing minister member status within the Presbytery of the James; and (4) Background information from the *Book of Order* of relevant sections for this policy.

I. Definitions of and Required Criteria for Continuing Minister Members of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

Continuing Minister members include the following: active members, members-at-large, and inactive members (G-11.0406).

A. Active Members (G-11.0406a)

Active Members are ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are engaged in ministry that complies with all of the criteria in G-11.0403 without exception. Types of active ministers include

- a. pastors
- b. associate pastors
- c. co-pastors
- d. designated pastors
- e. designated associate pastors
- f. interim pastors
- g. stated supply pastors
- h. temporary supply pastors
- i. organizing pastors
- j. validated ministers
- k. honorably retired ministers.

B. Member-at-Large (G-11.0406b, G-11.0413)

A member at large is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who 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 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. This status may be granted by the presbytery and shall be reviewed annually.

C. Inactive Member (G-11.0406c, G-11.0413, G-11.0415)

An inactive member is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who is now voluntarily engaged in an occupation that does not comply with all of the criteria in G-11.0403. The continued status of an inactive member shall be reviewed annually up to three years. If at the end of three years, the minister has not been restored to active membership or membership-at-large, the presbytery shall delete the person's name from the appropriate roll of presbytery and may give that person a certificate of membership to a particular church (G-11.0414)

The Presbytery of the James requires that ministers be active in the work of the governing body and report regularly on their work and residency.

The Committee on Ministry shall review annually the status of members-at-large and inactive members.

II. Rolls Maintained by the Stated Clerk (G-11.0407)

The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall maintain the following rolls:

- a. Active members
- b. Members at Large
- c. Inactive members
- d. Certified Christian Educators within the bounds
- e. Persons who have been deleted from the other rolls

III. Annual Calendar for Committee on Ministry review of Members:

The Committee on Ministry shall review annually the membership rolls of the presbytery (G-11.0407). The calendar for the Presbytery of the James is:

Annual report request sent to minister members	December 1
Annual report due back from minister members	February 15
Review of annual reports by COM	April
Interviews with ministers	May
Final report made to the presbytery	Summer Stated meeting

COM Approved: January 13, 2000