

MEMBER-AT-LARGE POLICY

Policy Statement

The Presbytery of the James understands member-at-large (MAL) to be temporary by intent and requires an individual who is requesting MAL status to be in regular attendance at presbytery meetings, and a particular PCUSA congregation. (G-14.0515)

Rationale

The Presbytery of the James, being guided by the Book of Order, takes seriously the specific paragraph G-11.0403 (e) that states, “The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in worship and service of a congregation.” Those ministers wishing to retain continuing membership status within the Presbytery of the James will comply with all the pertinent portions of the Book of Order in determining continuing membership status as a member-at-large. (Ref. G-11.0403 and G-11.0406b)

Committee on Ministry Responsibilities

The COM shall annually review the status of MAL using the guidelines in the Book of Order and the presbytery’s current policy statement for MAL. Recommended changes in membership status shall be reported to the Presbytery of the James for consideration and action.

The COM will provide the following information to any minister who is granted MAL status:

1. Communicate the date that MAL status was approved by the Presbytery of the James.
2. Confer with the MAL regarding participating in the Presbytery of the James and the local church.
3. Send annual requests to the MAL that includes the Annual Report Form and the deadline for completing the form.
4. In the MAL’s second year, the COM will request in writing a current status and inquire concerning efforts in finding a call or transferring membership to another presbytery.
5. In the MAL’s third year, unless there is good cause or extenuating circumstances, the COM will expect the MAL to receive a call as a pastor, associate pastor, interim pastor, or stated supply, to be engaged in a validated ministry, or to transfer membership to another

presbytery. If none of the actions in the preceding sentence occurs, the COM may recommend to the Presbytery of the James a change in MAL status to inactive membership status.

Minister Responsibilities:

Ordinarily, a minister granted MAL status will be expected to be involved in a PC (USA) congregation, to attend presbytery meetings, and to demonstrate active involvement in the mission of the presbytery (such as, for example, serving on a Presbytery committee) with the explicit intention of returning to active member status.

Each member-at-large will report annually to the COM which “shall... make a recommendation to the presbytery as to whether the member should continue in the present category, be assigned another category, or be released from the exercise of ordained office. Such action may be initiated by the presbytery or at the request of the minister.” (G-11.0413) Each MAL will complete the Annual Review Form outlining how they are meeting the standards of G-11.0403 and the criteria of this presbytery.

Adopted by Presbytery, October 9, 2007