

The Session's Role in Recruiting People for Ministry

Can you think of anyone in your congregation who would be a good minister?

Part of the responsibility of the session is to promote spiritual growth in the congregation. This in part means helping people to identify their gifts and guiding them in ways they might use these gifts. Simply giving feedback can be a critical event in a person responding to their calling. "Have you ever considered ministry?" or "I could see you as a pastor." can go a long way in helping a person clarify their own internal discernment of their call.

When a person meets with the Session about possibly becoming a pastor, the Session helps the person test out their calling by supporting, encouraging, and challenging them. Giving them opportunities to participate in the life of the congregation and broader church is of great help. If you feel and can see God's hand in this person's life and calling, the Session will recommend they meet with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to become an Inquirer. The Session will also appoint one of their members as a Liaison to support the Inquirer. The responsibilities of the Liaison can be found on this website under: Role of the Session Liaison.

After at least a year as an Inquirer, the person responding to the call to become a minister can approach the Session about becoming a Candidate for ministry. After meeting and assessing the person's readiness, the Session will either postpone the decision or endorse the Inquirer to meet with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. If that meeting goes well the person will become a Candidate. This is usually done just before or just after the Inquirer enrolls in seminary. The CPM will assign an Advocate, who will play a similar to the Session's Liaison.

The Session will continue to support and encourage the Candidate while they are in seminary.

Resources for Sessions that are helpful:

Book of Order G-2.0605

The Call of Jeremiah: A Bible Study

Examine a biblical call passage, consider the personal struggles and the empowering of one called by God and relate the passage to one's own sense of call.

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/call-jeremiah-bible-study/>

A Session Guide for the Ministry of All Believers

Suggested approaches and educational resources to enrich understanding of the vocation of the Christian. Includes suggestions and resources for acquainting persons with the ministry of the Laity, ministry of the Word and Sacrament, and other church occupations. For use by sessions, Christian Education committees, Inquirers, Candidates and pastors. Prepared and field tested by the Task Force for a Joint Candidacy Process.

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/session-guide-ministry-all-believers/>

Primary Qualities for Professional Ministry

Identifies six crucial qualities for persons in ministry, elaborates on the elements of each quality and identifies ways to develop and strengthen each quality.

<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/primary-qualities-professional-ministry/>