

PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY
Commission for Church Professionals
Policy on Validated Ministries Outside the Congregation
(Approved July 6, 2020)

Introduction

In determining a policy on validated ministries, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley is instructed by G-2.0502, which says:

The presbytery shall determine whether a particular work may be helpful to the church in mission and is a call to validated ministry requiring ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. In the performance of that ministry, the minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be accountable to the presbytery.

In addition to defining the criteria for determining validated ministries, G-2.0503 requires the presbytery [to] review annually the work of all ministers of the Word and Sacrament engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation and the status of members-at-large.

The following are guidelines to be used in determination of a validated ministries outside the congregation and the method of accomplishing annual reviews.

Criteria Determining Validated Ministry G-2.0503

A validated ministry shall:

(1) demonstrate conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order of this church.

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley understands this standard to mean that the duties of a minister of the Word and Sacrament must be of a religious nature, usually reflected in a job title like pastor, minister, chaplain, bishop(overseer), evangelist, teacher, missionary or in job activities/duties such as, preaching, teaching, counseling, healing, reconciling, witnessing, or administering (judicatory).

(2) serve and aid others and enable the ministry of others.

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley understands this standard to mean that the primary motive of the minister is service to others.

(3) give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word.

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley understands this standard to mean that this service must be one that requires, either officially or by the nature of the work, a graduate theological education.

(4) be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served; and

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley understands this standard to mean that the minister's service must be visibly and organizationally accountable to a non-profit religious or social service organization.

(5) include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA) (G-5.0201).

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley understands this standard to mean that the minister's service must allow the minister time to participate in the life of a local congregation and/or of the Presbytery and the Minister must demonstrate a willingness to do so.

For purposes of determining a validated ministry, and in the spirit of St. Paul who practiced a tent making ministry, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley may consider either a Minister's full time or part-time employment for purposes of determining validation.

Validated Ministries Outside the Congregation

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley currently recognizes two categories of service as Validated Ministries Outside the Congregation.

1. Validated Ministry in other Service to the Presbyterian Church (USA).

All Ministers of the Word and Sacrament employed by the Presbyterian Church (USA) or any of its related agencies, judicatories or affiliated institutions, or any religious organization with which the Presbyterian church is an official partner, as long as all five above standards are met. Examples: Presbytery Executive, Director of Presbyterian owned Campgrounds, President or professor in a church college or seminary, G.A. staff, G.A. mission partner,

2. Validated Ministry beyond the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

All Ministers of the Word and Sacrament engaged in ministries not directly accountable to the Presbyterian Church (USA) or one of its related agencies, but serving another denomination, a governmental entity, or Christian or ecumenical organization, as long as all five standards are met. Military Chaplains are not employed directly by a religious organization, but they are accountable for their ministry through the Presbyterian's Office of Chaplains, and therefore qualify in this category of validated ministry. Examples: Pastor temporarily serving a Methodist congregation, President of a Lutheran College, Director of Council of Churches, hospital chaplain, counselor or social worker employed by a religious agency.

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley understands that validated ministry is any ministry that fulfills all five standards listed in G-2.0503. In determining a validated ministry outside the congregation, the minister shall present evidence or testimony to the Presbytery regarding how a particular service fulfills or fails to fulfill these five standards. The burden of proof is on the minister. The minister may provide such documents as, employment contracts, literature describing the ministry, job descriptions, etc. The Presbytery of Scioto Valley has final authority in determining what constitutes a validated ministry outside the congregation and who shall be members.

Member-at-Large

A member-at-large is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who has previously been engaged in a validated ministry, 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-2.0503a. A minister of

the Word and Sacrament 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 due to family responsibilities or other individual circumstances recognized by the presbytery. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-2.0503a as possible and shall actively participate in the life of 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 member-at-large shall be reviewed annually.

Ministers who are Members at Large are not in validated ministries, because they, by definition, do not fulfill all five standards for a validated ministry. Normally, the Presbytery will not ordain a person to a ministry within this category or accept the transfer of a minister from another Presbytery or another denomination as a Member at Large, except that a clergy spouse of a minister who accepts a call in church or validated ministry within the Presbytery may transfer from another presbytery or a denomination that has entered into the Formula of Agreement into this category if he or she has not yet received a call to a congregation or validated ministry within the Presbytery. Normally, ordination must be to a validated ministry.

Ministers who are Members at Large are encouraged to fulfill as many of the standards for validated ministry as possible, even if such fulfillment is voluntarily or on a part-time basis.

Annual Reviews

Ministers who serve in validated ministries outside the congregation and ministers who are members at large will complete and submit the attached Validated Ministry or At Large Review Report to the Commission for Church Professionals in their first year of validated or at large position. In subsequent years, they may resubmit a copy of their original form noting changes and the date those changes occurred. Updated forms will be submitted to the Commission for Church Professionals before November 30th.

Note: Italics are direct quotes from Book of Order

Presbytery of Scioto Valley Commission for Church Professionals
For Validated Ministry and Members at Large (Please check appropriate box).

Review Report **Application**

Date: _____

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Phone Numbers: _____

Contact Phone Number (2) _____

Email Address: _____

Employer Information

Employer: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Phone Numbers: _____

Type of Validated Ministry Outside the Congregation: (Please mark)

- () Service at General Assembly Level () Pastoral Counselor
- () Service at the Synod Level () Campus Minister () Service at the Presbytery Level
- () Missionary () Parish Associate () Partner in Mission () Teacher () Evangelist
- () Chaplains () Administrators () Social Workers () Consultants
- () Member at Large () Other _____

Participation

Within which local PCUSA congregation will you be active (if you are not serving a church)?

Validated Ministry Outside the Congregation

Please describe how your ministry demonstrates conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order of this church; _____

Describe how your ministry serves and aids others and enables the ministries of others.

Describe how your ministry will be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served.

Describe how your ministry will include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA).

Other information you would like to supply.

APPLICATION FOR VALIDATED MINISTRY

I certify that I know the contents of this application signed by me and the statements in the application is a true and correct representation of my proposed Ministry activities for a validated ministry. I make the following motion: *that my application for validated ministry be approved.*

Signature

Name