

2010 NHP Policy Governing At-Large Members

The Book of Order sets forth clear requirements for a minister who seeks to become a member-at-large of a presbytery (G-11.0406). In applying these requirements, the Presbytery of New Hope has adopted the following policy. The at-large status is a temporary accommodation for a minister “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-11.0403.”

The Book of Order states that the status of a member-at-large shall be reviewed annually. The annual review will be based, in part, on the information supplied in the report form submitted to the Committee on Ministry. Ministers requesting renewal of at-large status must complete this form showing why renewal of their at-large status is still needed, and return it to the Committee on Ministry by August 31 for review and recommendations by the Committee on Ministry prior to the October stated meeting of Presbytery.

The Book of Order, G-11.0406.b, states: A member-at-large is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament who:

1. Has previously been admitted to the Presbytery of New Hope or another presbytery as an active member, and who
2. Is now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-11.0403 (see a list of those criteria below).
3. A minister 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 because of family responsibilities or other individual circumstances which this presbytery recognizes as important.
4. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 (see below) as possible and shall be encouraged if appropriate to become a parish associate in a PC (USA) congregation.
5. 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 each member-at-large may be granted by the presbytery upon the minister's application and shall be reviewed annually (G-11.0406(b)).

In addition to these five provisions in the Book of Order, the Presbytery of New Hope establishes the following policies for members-at-large:

- 1) A member-at-large will be encouraged and expected to serve on one of the committees of the Presbytery of New Hope and normally participate in the life of a local Presbyterian church. When possible, the Nominating Committee will

attempt to nominate the minister for his or her preferred place of service.

- 2) The member-at-large is encouraged and will be expected to make himself or herself available to do supply preaching at PC(USA) churches within the bounds of this presbytery.
- 3) In some cases the Committee on Ministry may recommend that the minister take honorable retirement in lieu of becoming a member-at-large.
- 4) In every case, a person seeking member-at-large status must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the presbytery that his or her ministry entails a sufficient connection to the work and mission of this presbytery.

G-11.0403 Criteria for Ministry of Continuing Members

A presbytery shall determine the ministers of the Word and Sacrament who shall be its continuing members. In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the presbytery for validation of ministries within its bounds. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0200 and the following standards:

- a. The ministry of continuing members shall be in demonstrable 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.
- b. The ministry shall be one that serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others.
- c. The ministry shall give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word. This will normally require the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and the completion of the requirements for ordination set forth in G-14.0482.
- d. The ministry shall be carried on with accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery and to its organizations, agencies, and institutions.
- e. The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship and service of a Presbyterian congregation.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMBER-AT-LARGE
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY PERIODICAL REPORT
(Book of Order G-11.0406 b)

The Pastor/Parish Relations Subcommittee of our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) sends warm greetings to you. We hope that things are going well with you personally in your service as a Minister-At-Large.

According to the Book of Order (G-11.0406 b), "The status of member-at-large (MAL) may be granted by the presbytery upon the minister's application and shall be reviewed annually. In addition, "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" (G-11.0406b). "Members-at-large...remain under the care, oversight, and discipline of the presbytery" (G-11.0413). The mandate that the at-large status shall be reviewed annually makes clear that this status is temporary, being granted by presbytery when a minister is unable to serve in a ministry that qualifies that minister for the status of active member in the presbytery.

Because at-large status is a temporary designation and not a continuing one, anyone requesting renewal of at-large status must complete this report for review each year. Please return it using electronic or traditional mail by August 31.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Current Occupation/Employment: _____

1. Please share about your current form(s) of ministry.

2. How can the COM be a spiritual encouragement to you at this time?

3. In which PCUSA church(es) do you regularly worship?

4. In which PCUSA churches have you preached in the past year?

5. When and where have you celebrated one or both of the sacraments in a PCUSA church in the past year?

6. Are you currently serving as a parish associate in a PCUSA congregation? If so, in which congregation?

7. On which committee(s) of the Presbytery of New Hope are you currently serving or wish to serve? If you are seeking to join the NHP, on which committee(s) would you prefer to serve?

8. Are you available for supply preaching in churches in the Presbytery of New Hope?

9. In the past year have you participated in a continuing education event(s) for ministers? If so, please list:

10. Please describe how your current ministry is connected to the work and mission of NHP.

11. Please explain why you believe receiving at-large status will strengthen your ministry.

Please feel free to provide additional information. It is appropriate to state the impediments to your resuming active membership as a minister member of the Presbytery of New Hope. For a minister seeking renewal of at-large status, please read the policy carefully. You must return this form to the Committee on Ministry by August 31. Mail to: Presbytery of New Hope, 2309 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC or e-mail bcdavis@nhpresbytery.org and Janel Dixon, calvarypresbyterianwilson@gmail.com .