

Final Assessment Application

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of New Hope

Greetings from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

This document contains of the information you need to apply for final assessment of the preparation for ministry process. Final assessment is the last step in the preparation for ministry process and is defined in the *Book of Order* as follows (G-2.0607):

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a teaching elder without approval of the presbytery of care. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a teaching elder shall include:

- a. a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;*
- b. a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university;*
- c. a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation; and*
- d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.*

The *Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* states (Page 46) that the traditional "outcomes of candidacy" have included:

- Presenting evidence of competence in the fields of Reformed theology, Bible, the polity of the PC(USA), and worship and Sacraments, and evidence of ministerial skill attested through the supervised practice of ministry
- Expressing theological views that are compatible, in the opinion of the presbytery, with the confessional documents of the church
- Expressing understanding of the meaning of the questions required for ordination (W-4.4003) informed by knowledge of the church in diverse settings
- Revealing commitment to the ordered ministry of a teaching elder within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with personal maturity, spiritual depth, and a capacity to respond to the needs of others, including colleagues in ministry
- Presenting a written sermon, together with a description of the contemporary need to which it was addressed and an exegetical interpretation of the biblical material out of

which arose (New Hope Presbytery CPM requires that the sermon be preached before the committee.)

New Hope Presbytery CPM requires that you have:

- Typically been a candidate for at least nine months.
- Completed both CPE and one supervised internship in a PC(USA) congregation and submitted evaluations to the CPM.
- Passed all ordination exams. (Bible content, Exegesis, Theology, Polity, and Worship and Sacraments)
- Graduated from seminary or be nearing graduation, including having completed courses in Presbyterian polity, Reformed theology, preaching/homiletics and worship and sacraments as well as courses required by the *Book of Order* in Hebrew and Greek and exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek.

To apply for final assessment, contact the Moderator of CPM (contact information is on the presbytery website) to set a date for final assessment. Before meeting with the CPM, submit the following paperwork (typed, minimum 12 point font) at **least one month before your appointment for final assessment:**

- Reports from any required field education that has not previously been submitted.
- If you have participated in additional internship/ministry opportunities since the two required courses, submit a report from your supervisor in those ministries.
- A sermon to preach for the CPM. You should prepare a brief service of worship including liturgy, prayer and possibly a hymn for the CPM meeting.
- Three to six pages of exegetical notes of the biblical text and a description of the contemporary need that the sermon is addressing. The exegetical notes should show some study and use of the original language (either Hebrew or Greek) and should also include citations from commentaries and other works that the candidate has consulted.
- A one-page statement of faith including what you believe about God, the Trinity (including statements on each person), the concept of grace, Holy Scripture, the sacraments, and the church.
- A complete draft of your Personal Information Form (PIF).
- An official final transcript (not a copy) from your seminary (or your most recent transcript if you are in your last semester).
- A one-page explanation describing how the courses that you have taken during seminary have satisfied the required classes in Presbyterian polity, Reformed theology, preaching/homiletics and worship and sacraments, Hebrew, Greek, and exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek.

Submit paperwork to the CPM by either email or by US postal service (please do not send multiple copies.) Email is to be sent to Christine Kelson in the Presbytery office at:

ckelson@nhpresbytery.org. The mailing address is:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Presbytery of New Hope
2022 McDonald Lane
Raleigh, NC 27608

Please contact your CPM shepherd or the CPM Moderator if you have questions. We celebrate with you and wish you grace and peace as you move to the final phase of the preparation for ministry process.

New Hope Presbytery Committee on preparation for Ministry