

Agreement for Inquirers and Candidates Under Care of New Hope Presbytery

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of New Hope emphasizes the following critical aspects of the preparation process:

1. The total preparation for ministry process will have a duration of at least two years, at least one year of which must be at the candidacy phase.
2. The start of the two-year preparation period begins when the CPM enrolls the person as inquirer. The required one-year of candidacy begins when the CPM enrolls the person as a candidate. Before the person may be certified ready to receive a call, they must attend a presbytery meeting to be introduced.
3. **No guarantee is implied that enrollment into the inquiry phase will be followed automatically by admission to the candidacy phase. Admission to the inquiry phase can be considered to be a “wide gate.” Admission to the candidacy phase then, is considered to be a “narrow gate” wherein progress will be examined critically and the questioning will be of a more specific, theological nature.**
4. Inquirers should ordinarily successfully complete one field education unit before the CPM will approve them for Candidacy. By the end of Candidacy each person under care will complete the minimum field education requirements of (a) one quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and (b) a supervised internship in a PC(USA) church or institution. Waivers will be granted only at the discretion of the CPM.
5. The CPM exists to advise, support, and nurture those under care, but it is the inquirer’s/ candidate’s responsibility ultimately to be knowledgeable of and to adhere to the process outlined in the manual, including any special requirements of New Hope Presbytery or its CPM, and to meet all deadlines in a timely manner.
6. The inquirer/candidate is expected to be available for all subsequent meetings with the CPM or its designees, especially the annual consultation required each year while under care.
7. Inquirer/candidates are advised that the provisions of the *Book of Order* (G-2.06), among other applicable requirements of the *Book of Order*, will govern their eventual ordination to the ministry as a teaching elder.
8. **The CPM reserves the right and responsibility to place additional requirements as it sees it is necessary during periodic evaluations of the inquirer’s/candidate’s progress.**
9. Conversations between applicants, enrollees, inquirers and candidates and the CPM are understood to be confidential. It is also understood that information shared with a shepherd will be considered information to be shared with the entire CPM. Psychological assessments/evaluations are necessary to a complete and helpful file. Members on the CPM will treat these reports with extreme care and dispose of them appropriately when the process is terminated or completed. The original report will be retained in an inquirer’s/candidate’s permanent file.
10. While in the preparation for ministry process, the inquirer/candidate will be expected to adhere to New Hope Presbytery's policy against sexual misconduct which may be obtained from the presbytery office.
11. While in the preparation for ministry process, substantial debt may be incurred, only a portion of which will be defrayed by support from New Hope Presbytery. Limited financial support is available from New Hope Presbytery.

12. Inquirers and candidates should pay special attention to CPM's guidelines for expenses incurred by inquirers and candidates and comply with all guidelines for travel expense reimbursement.
13. Beyond the requirements stated in the *Book of Order* and *Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, only those requirements placed by New Hope Presbytery and its CPM are in effect. The requirements of other presbyteries are neither pertinent nor applicable.
14. Inquirer/candidate will arrange for and sign appropriate releases of information with his/her seminary to allow CPM and seminary staff to communicate about inquirer/candidate's course work, performance and adjustment. (New Hope Presbytery Form 2B - *Covenant Agreement and Inquirer Release* and New Hope Presbytery Form 5D - *Covenant Agreement and Candidate Release* which are required by CPM may be sufficient.)

I acknowledge by my signature that I have read and accept the aspects of the preparation for ministry process noted above.

Signature: _____

Please print full name:

Date: