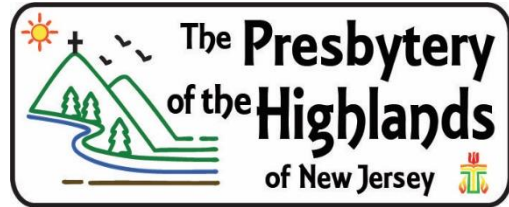


Recognition of a Validated Ministry Presbytery of The Highlands of NJ



The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey's recognition of a Validated Ministry acknowledges God's call to ministries other than traditional, full-time pastor and associate pastor roles, serving established congregations. As gifted men and women follow God's call to ordained ministry, the forms in which they express this call continue to change. The world needs men and women carrying God's message of love, justice and reconciliation through both Word and Sacrament and we are called to creatively embrace possibilities that will further God's work. Fresh expressions of the Gospel in and through our denomination call for leaders who serve in diverse forms of ministry. Emerging forms of leadership and ever-changing opportunities to serve our communities in the name of Jesus Christ require us to be flexible about the settings to which a person may be ordained.

What is a Validated Ministry?

A Validated Ministry is normally a ministry outside of the ordinary congregational life that meets the criteria expressed in the Book of Order and by the guidelines of the Presbytery of the Highlands. It shall be a ministry that serves others, aids others and enables the ministry of others. Also, the ministry shall be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery and to organizations, agencies and institutions. A Validated Ministry within the Presbytery of the Highlands will:

- proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and deed and may celebrate the sacraments
- stress deeds of love and mercy
- help to share the ministry of the good news and seek to fulfill the ministry of Jesus Christ
- exercise pastoral care of those for whom they are responsible
- strengthen the church
- equip the church for service to the human community. (based on G-6.0104, G-6.0203 and G-11.0403)

Some Forms of Validated Ministry

While the forms may be varied, the intention of a Validated Ministry must be in conformity with the mission of God's people, as articulated in the Scriptures and our constitution, and expressed through ordered ministries of the church (G-2.01). In some forms of Validated Ministry, primary emphasis is given to proclamation of the

Word and the celebration of the Sacraments, other forms may stress deeds of love and mercy. Some forms are primarily in roles as:

- educators
- chaplains
- pastoral counselors
- campus ministers
- partners in mission
- evangelists
- administrators
- social workers in church related work
- faith based community organizers
- new church development pastors
- other specific tasks appropriate to the ministry of the church including administrative (including presbytery, synod and GA staff), legislative, judicial or prophetic positions (based on G-6.0203, G-6.0104).

Criteria for Ministers Serving in a Validated Ministry

The minister must be a PC (USA) ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament or be cleared by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) to be ordained or have the credentials to become a PC (USA) minister in accordance with the Book of Order. A person in a Validated Ministry may be ordained if the presbytery approves the Validated Ministry and the person is otherwise qualified to be ordained. Also, ministers serving in a Validated Ministry must participate in the life of a local congregation, which may include being designated as a parish associate; and participate in the life of the presbytery in fulfillment of their ordination vows. Ministers serving in a Validated Ministry are encouraged to participate in the denomination beyond the presbytery as well as in ecumenical ministries (based on G-6.0203, G-11.0403 and G-14.0482). If the Validated Ministry takes the minister away from this presbytery, it is expected that the minister will participate in the life of a local congregation and the local presbytery and report to the Presbytery of the Highlands annually their involvement in the local presbytery and congregation. In the case of mission service, the minister will report annually on their work and status (based on G-6.0203 and G-11.0403) and participate in Boundary Awareness Training once every three years. Ministers serving Validated Ministries within an immigrant and/or non-English speaking congregation or ministry will be given consideration according to the Book of Order (G-11.0404f).

Terms of Call to a Validated Ministry

Terms of call to a Validated Ministry shall include a description of the goals and working relationships; the signature of the minister (s), a representative of the presbytery, and, where possible, of the employing agency. Financial terms for a Validated Ministry may or may not meet the Presbytery of the Highland's minimum for a congregational call. Validated Ministry may be volunteer or part-time. The Committee on Ministry shall take into consideration the overall financial terms and

the ministers' financial health before validating the ministry (based on G-11.0408b and c).

The Process for Approval of a Validated Ministry

The minister of Word and Sacrament or candidate shall consult with the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry and shall submit a written application for Validated Ministry. The written application shall include a statement of how the proposed ministry meets the criteria; a one-page statement of faith; a PIF, resume, or curriculum vitae showing academic and relevant life/ministry experience; and the financial terms of call. The Committee on Ministry shall review the written application and terms of call and interview the applicant for validated ministry and membership in the presbytery. COM's action shall be reported to the Presbytery.

Review of a Validated Ministry

The minister engaged in a Validated Ministry shall submit to the COM a brief reflection (no more than 2 pages) on the ministry in the last year and anticipated changes in the work of the ministry for the coming year. COM will document receipt of the Annual Review. The COM liaison may interview the minister concerning the Annual Review. If deemed necessary, the interview shall include, but may not be limited to: Activity of the ministry; Goals for the ministry; plans of the minister for continuing education; and ways in which the Presbytery can be of greater support to the minister and ministry.