

Policy #17

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CLERGY BEING RECEIVED INTO THE  
PRESBTERY, FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS, AND FOR CLERGY NOT  
RECEIVED YET SERVING OUR CHURHCES**

**COM Approval:** January 15, 2015

**PGA Approval:** N/A

A criminal background check shall be required of every clergy person either being received as a minister member or labor within our bounds serving one of our congregations. The Stated Clerk is responsible for ensuring that the report is run and retained on behalf of the presbytery. Any issue with the report will be shared with the Congregational Consultant for the church where this person was to serve.

A criminal background check shall also be required of any Commissioned Ruling Elder of the approved by the Presbytery. Any issue with the report will be shared with the appropriate COM oversight body.

Costs incurred in running these background checks shall be borne by the church if the pastor or Commissioned Ruling Elder is serving a congregation; or shall be borne by the individual if serving in a validated ministry.