

Policy #1 – Policy for Inquirers and Candidates not moving forward in the process

Purpose: To ascertain the reasons for delay and respond in a compassionate and productive way.

<p>Inquirer</p>	<p>If an Inquirer has been in the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) process for three (3) years, s/he should move to Candidate status. If the Inquirer does not pursue Candidate status, s/he will be removed from the process.</p> <p>Process: If the Inquirer does not pursue Candidate status, CPM will recommend removal of the Inquirer to the Presbytery, and upon approval, the Presbytery Office will send a certified letter releasing him / her from the process and his / her name will be removed from the CPM roster.</p>
<p>Candidate</p>	<p>After three (3) years as a Candidate, the following actions are required to continue in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Candidate will complete the Candidate’s portion of the form, “Request to Continue as a Candidate”. • The Candidate shall meet with the Session of care and request that the Session reconfirm their endorsement. • The Session will complete the Session’s portion of the Request to Continue form and forward it to the CPM. <p>Process: Once the Request to Continue form is received, and if the Session has agreed to reconfirm their endorsement, the CPM sub-committee may recommend or require additional actions to be taken by the Candidate in order to continue in the process. Examples of additional requirements, which will normally have a specific time requirement, include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual consultation conducted by the full sub-committee, including a review of the completed Request to Continue as a Candidate form. • A new statement of faith • Additional psychological assessments • Additional seminary coursework • Additional unit of CPE • Enhanced interaction with his/her congregation and/or Session of care • Participation in a specific discernment process regarding the Candidate’s vocation/call • Consideration given to transferring to another presbytery.
<p>Candidate Certified Ready to Receive a Call</p>	<p>Ordinarily, a Candidate may remain in the “Certified Ready to Receive a Call” status for no more than five (5) years. At the end of five years, if the CPM liaison determines that the Candidate wishes to remain in the process, the following actions are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Candidate must update and resubmit all Final Assessment documentation. • The Candidate must meet with the CPM sub-committee to evaluate his/her current sense of call. • Ordinarily ordination exams do not expire. However, the CPM reserves the right to require that one or more of the exam(s) be retaken after 5 years. This decision will be made by a three-fourths majority of the candidate’s CPM sub-group. <p>Process: The CPM liaison will meet with the Candidate for an Annual Consultation. If the Candidate does not wish to continue in the process, CPM will recommend removal of the Candidate to the Presbytery, and upon approval, the Presbytery Office will send a certified letter releasing him/her from the process and their name will be removed from the CPM roster.</p> <p>If the CPM liaison is not able to contact the Candidate, s/he should attempt to obtain current contact information from the Session of care. If the liaison is ultimately unable to contact the Candidate, CPM will recommend removal of the Candidate to the Presbytery, and upon approval, their name will be removed from the CPM roster.</p>