

Alternate Examination Process Presbytery of the Western Reserve

The Presbytery of the Western Reserve requests that the Synod of the Covenant approve the following alternate examination process for meeting the examination requirements of G-14.0310b(4) for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament:

Any candidate who has failed any one of the Standard Ordination Examinations twice may submit a written request to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) to take an alternate examination. After consultation with the candidate, the CPM will determine whether the candidate should: 1) be authorized to re-take the Standard Ordination Examination or 2) be recommended to the Presbytery for approval to take an alternate examination.

An alternate examination shall be prepared by appropriate members of the presbytery not currently serving on CPM. The Task Group to prepare such examinations shall be selected by the CPM and shall consist of at least three Presbyterians who have knowledge and experience of:

- the particular content area(s) of the examination(s) and
- examination preparation.

There are many people within the bounds of our presbytery who have experience and knowledge of all phases related to this suggested process: professors, educators, standard ordination examination readers, and pastors. Alternate examinations shall ordinarily be in a written format. In the case of a candidate who has difficulty with written examinations, an oral exam could be developed.

The CPM shall select an Examination Committee comprised of:

- one person from the group which prepared the examination,
- one person who has been a reader of standard ordination examinations; and
- one person who has previously served on CPM.

This committee will meet to discuss the parameters for a passing examination and then will assess the examination submitted by the candidate. Every effort will be made to insure the confidentiality of the candidate. All members of the Examination Committee shall read the examination. However, the assessment of the reader who has previously served on CPM will be reviewed only if the other two readers' assessments are not in agreement as to its acceptability. (If two readers give an exam a passing mark, a third reader is not necessary. However, if one reader passes an exam and a second one fails it, the third reader will make the determination.)

The results of the alternate examination process will be reported to the Presbytery and to the appropriate offices of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.