

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON
CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP AND VALIDATION OF MINISTRY POLICY

(Approved by Presbytery at the September 20-21, 2002 Stated Meeting)

In addition to the "Criteria for Ministry of Continuing Members" found in G-6.0100, G-6.0200 and G-11.0403 the following shall apply:

1. A continuing member shall take the initiative in establishing an active relation to Presbytery evidenced by regular attendance. Regular attendance shall normally be understood to consist of attendance in at least three (3) of the regular stated meetings each year; and request for excuse for all absences. Honorably Retired members are encouraged to attend meetings but are not required to request an excuse for all absences from regular stated meetings.
2. A continuing member shall exhibit and implement willingness to serve in the committee and committee structures of the governing bodies.
3. A continuing member shall be (a) under documented and approved call or contract to a particular congregation or governing body position, (b) honorably retired, or (c) actively seeking a call as pastor, associate pastor, pulpit supply, stated supply, temporary supply, or others pastoral duties, serving, or willing to serve, a minimum of 1/2 time if requested by the Presbytery through its Committee or designated representative. If the member is employed full-time elsewhere, less than 1/2 time is acceptable or (d) entering a work defined in G-11.0411 for which the presbytery shall give its permission by validating it a ministry "In Service Beyond the Jurisdiction".

The criteria for determining a validated ministry In Service Beyond the Jurisdiction (G-11.0411) shall be based upon whether the proposed ministry meets all of the following standards:

- a) Is a mission project or other form of ministry such as a day care project, Chaplaincy or is of the nature of pastoral care, pastoral counseling, pastoral education or health care service; is a ministry related by organization, accountability and structure to other denominations with which the PCUSA is in correspondence; is a ministry related to a seminary acceptable to the presbytery; is a ministry related to a non denominational organization dealing with housing programs, the farm crisis, drug and alcohol addiction or marriage and family problems; is a ministry related to an international organization such as a council of churches or other ministry of service acceptable to the presbytery.
- b) Is a ministry that serves others, aids others and enables the ministry of others and relates to the service of people rather than to the production of goods or of profits.
- c) Is a ministry that makes active and effective use of the biblical and theological training that is required for ordination.
- d) Is a ministry carried out in accountability for its character, conduct and performance results to a management committee, board of directors or to others responsible for the overall results of the total ministry program.
- e) Is a ministry carried out in accountability for its character and conduct and is answerable to the presbytery for agreed upon end results or activities with a face to face review of the ministry on a yearly basis.
- f) Is a ministry that will allow the continuing member to participate actively in the worship and service of a congregation of this presbytery or in a congregation of a denomination in which the PCUSA is in correspondence and it is expected that the continuing member will so participate.

If one or more of the criteria cannot be met, the continuing member should ask to be designated either a **member-at-large** or an **inactive member** of presbytery. If presbytery is unwilling to grant this then the continuing member should seek **release from the exercise of ordained office** (G-11.0414) until he or she receives a call to ministry that fulfills all criteria.

Restoration to the exercise of the office is possible without re-ordination by (1) application to and approval of the presbytery that granted release, (2) reaffirmation of ordination vows, and (3) resumption of a ministry that qualifies for continuing active membership in the presbytery. **These steps provide for ease in movement and are in no way judgmental.** They are permissive in that re-ordination is not necessary. People should be encouraged to use them.