

FELLOWSHIP ELDER CRITERIA

**PURPOSE: To Establish criteria for an Immigrant Fellowship
to qualify its leadership as elders
and receive voting status
in the Presbytery of Northern New England**

G-9.0503a.(2)(a). For immigrant fellowships with roots in the Reformed tradition, if the presbytery determines (1) that its strategy for mission with that constituency requires it and (2) that the chosen lay leadership of the immigrant fellowship is equivalent to elders and session, then the presbytery or its administrative commission may recognize that status as equivalent and proceed to recognize those leaders as elders. In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the presbytery. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0300.

G-9.0503a.(2)(b). For immigrant fellowships the presbytery may, if it determines that its strategy for mission with that constituency requires it, grant designated leader(s) of a fellowship voice and vote in the meetings of presbytery on an annual basis.

In order for an Immigrant Fellowship to qualify its leadership as elders and receive voting status in Presbytery, the Fellowship shall meet the following requirements:

This process will be initiated by Council as a recommendation to COM when steps 1 through 7 are satisfied.

1. It is determined that the roots of the Fellowship are in the Reformed Tradition.
2. The Presbytery strategy for mission with that constituency, as determined by Council, is met.
3. The Fellowship leadership serves in a manner similar to a session in approaching ministry and making decisions.
4. The Presbytery has given recognition of the active ministry of the fellowship for more than one year.
5. Mentoring of the Fellowship by the Presbytery, a congregation of the Presbytery, and/or elders of PC(USA) has been achieved to the satisfaction of the New Church Development Committee of Council.
6. The leadership has been elected by the membership of the Fellowship.
7. The leadership is composed of both men and women.

Items 8 through 12 are to be carried out by COM.

8. The provisions of G-6.0100 and G-6.0300 are fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Committee on Ministry through a process approved by the COM that includes the successful examination of each prospective elder in accordance with G-14.0240 .

G-6.0106a ... In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a governing body of the church.

G-6.0303. Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. (G-6.0106)

G-14.0240. ...willingness to undertake the office. ...(following) a period of study and preparation, ... examine the officers-elect as to their personal faith; knowledge of the doctrine, government, and discipline contained in the Constitution of the church; and the duties of the office.

9. The existing leaders will be divided into two or three classes that will follow the election requirements of a session (G-14.0220 Election Provisions). Initially, some leaders will serve less than a three year term to start the rotation process.

G-14.0221. ...shall elect men and women from among its active members, giving fair representation to persons of all ages and of all racial ethnic backgrounds and to persons with disabilities...

G-14.0222. An elder serving on a session ... shall be elected for a term of no more than three years, and service in consecutive terms, either full or partial, shall be limited to six years. An elder...having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection to the same board for a period of at least one year. ...Elders ...shall be elected in two or three classes as nearly equal in number as possible, of which only one shall expire each year. Terms ...shall expire when their successors have been ordained and installed.

G-14.0223. Nominations shall be made by a representative nominating committee of active members of the church. ...

10. The fellowship "session" will receive polity training.
11. COM, in consultation with the Council NCD, will appoint a moderator of the "session" who will normally be the pastor of the fellowship if that pastor is a member of the Presbytery.
12. Fellowship leaders designated as elders will have all the rights and responsibilities of elders including eligibility to serve as commissioned lay pastors (CLP) when approved by CPM as meeting the CLP requirements.

Proposed by COM/CPM 3 May 2008
Approved by Presbytery 7 June 2008