

Appendix W
Continuing Membership and Validation of Ministry Policy

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, *or*
 - b) honorably retired, *or*
 - c) [COM] approved member at large, *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 of the Church.”

Minister members of the Presbytery of Hudson River may be engaged in validated ministries within congregations (G-11.0409), within governing bodies of the church, ecumenical agencies, specialized ministries under the control of the church, and interdenominational agencies (G-11.0410); or engaged in validated ministries beyond the jurisdiction of the church (G-11.0411), providing the ministry meets the following criteria:

1. The ministry shall be approved by presbytery before the member enters into such service. (G-11.0411)
2. The ministry shall be in line with the mission of the presbytery. (G-11.0411)
3. The ministry shall adhere to the essentials of the Reformed faith and polity as expressed in the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions and in conformity with the mission of God’s people in the world as set forth in Scripture. (G-6.0108, G-11.0403)
4. The ministry makes active and effective use of the biblical and theological training that is required for ordination. (G-11.0403)

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5. The ministry shall exercise pastoral care to those for whom they are responsible. The ministry shall serve Christ and humanity, strengthen the church and equip it for service to the human community. (G-6.0203)
6. Those involved in validated ministries outside of a congregation shall participate in the worship of a local congregation, in their presbytery, and in ecumenical relationships, and shall be eligible for election to the higher governing bodies of the church and to the boards and agencies of those governing bodies. (G-11.0403)
7. Those engaged in validated ministry shall be accountable to the presbytery. (G-11.0403)

The ministry shall be accountable for its character and conduct to the presbytery and appropriate organizations or agencies. (G-11.0403)

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