

SESSION CONSULTATION/RECOMMENDATION

Some issues for consideration when consulting with a prospective Inquirer. * Since this is the beginning of the process, primary attention should be given, at this time, to evaluating natural gifts, quality of commitment, strength of motivation, and potential for growth. Each of these issues should be pursued at greater depth during the period of inquiry.

- 1) What personal qualities of the applicant are evidence of a healthy and vital faith in God through Jesus Christ?

- 2) How is that faith currently being expressed through the individual's participation in the worship, life, and mission of this congregation?

- 3) What various motivations impel the sense of call? (e.g., service to God and the world, compassion for God's children, guilt, the need for power and status)

- 4) What real and potential talents for ministry are evident in this individual? (e.g., the ability to communicate, interpersonal skills, leadership or administrative abilities)

- 5) What is the level and adequacy of the individual's academic interest, ability, and motivation?

- 6) What is the evidence of his or her physical health and stamina?

- 7) What is the evidence of his or her emotional well-being?

- 8) What is the evidence of his or her self-discipline?

- 9) How does the individual plan to finance his or her education?

**Preparation for Ministry Manual*, page 24.

SESSION EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

THE SESSION OF THE _____ CHURCH OF _____
(NAME OF CHURCH)

(CITY) (STATE) MET WITH _____
(NAME OF APPLICANT)
ON _____ AND SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING REPORT:
(DATE)

_____ ENDORSES
THE SESSION _____ THE APPLICANT TO BE ENROLLED BY THE PRESBYTERY
AS AN INQUIRER.
_____ DOES NOT ENDORSE

LIAISON

THE SESSION HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING ELDER TO ACT AS LIAISON WITH THE INQUIRER AND WITH THE PRESBYTERY'S COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY, AND TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE INQUIRER AND THE COMMITTEE AS THEY EXPLORE AND EVALUATE HIS OR HER PROGRESS. (G-14.0306b)

NAME: _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

ADDRESS: _____
(STREET OR PO BOX) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP CODE)

PHONE #: _____ CELL PHONE #: _____

FAX #: _____ E-MAIL: _____

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED FOR THE SESSION BY: _____
(NAME)

(POSITION) (PHONE #)

CELL PHONE #: _____ FAX #: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Session will copy and mail completed form (pages 2-5 [6-9 if requested by your Presbytery] and page 12) to Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry at the following address:

(This page is to be detached and retained by session.)

GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION

- 1) Developing among church members an awareness of their Christian vocation and challenging them with responsible Christian stewardship of their talents. (G-10.0102d and G-10.0102g)
 - 2) Encouraging persons with appropriate motivation and abilities to consider preparation for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament or other church occupations.
 - 3) Contacting the Moderator of the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry when a church member indicates a desire to pursue his or her sense of call to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. (G-14.0303c and G-14.0306a)
 - 4) Meeting for orientation on the preparation process with representative(s) from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. (G-14.0303c and G-14.0306a)
 - 5) Interviewing applicants who request to be enrolled as Inquirers, and making a recommendation to the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry regarding the application. (G-14.0303d)
 - 6) Appointing an elder to be a liaison person with the applicant and the CPM if he or she is enrolled as an Inquirer by the Presbytery. (G-14.0306b)
- Note: If the Session, the Committee, or the Presbytery decides not to accept the individual for enrollment as an Inquirer at this time, the Session continues to provide support, counsel, and guidance to the individual as he or she seeks to discover an appropriate occupational expression of Christian vocation.***
- 7) Providing support and care on an on-going basis to the Inquirer including the provision of financial support. (G-14.0306b)
 - 8) Participating with the Inquirer and Presbytery's Committee in evaluating the Inquirer's growth and progress, receiving a copy of the Inquirer's Annual Report from the Committee. (G-14.0303f and G-14.0309b)
 - 9) Meeting with the Inquirer to review evidence indicating his or her readiness to proceed to Candidacy. This evidence includes a personal interview with the Inquirer, all consultation reports, and the Inquirer's demonstration of adequate promise for ministry according to the expected outcomes of the Inquiry Phase as set forth in G-14.0303g (1-6).
 - 10) Making a decision regarding whether to recommend to Presbytery that the Inquirer proceed to Candidacy Phase. (G-14.0305b)

- 11) Providing support and making a statement to Presbytery, if requested, when the Inquirer is ready for admission to Candidacy Phase.

Note: If the Inquirer is not received by Presbytery as a Candidate at this time, the Session continues to support, counsel, and guide the individual as he or she seeks to discover an appropriate occupational expression of his or her Christian vocation.

- 12) Upon approval of Candidacy by Presbytery, the Candidate and his or her Session may request that a commission of Presbytery conduct a service of reception in the presence of the Candidate's congregation. (G-14.0305h)
- 13) Providing continued support and pastoral care to the Candidate and his or her family, maintaining the liaison relationship with both the Candidate and the Presbytery Committee and considering the provision of financial support for the Candidate. (G-14.0306b)
- 14) Receiving and reviewing reports of each Annual Consultation. (G-14.0309b)
- 15) Removing the Candidate's name from the church roll when notice is received of his or her ordination.

Note: It is important to remember that the Session acts as an advocate for both Inquirers and Candidates and, through its moderator and Presbytery commissioner(s), can call the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to accountability in fulfilling its responsibilities.