

## Policy for Ministers from other Denominations Seeking to Serve PCUSA Congregations in a Pastoral, transitional, or supply Role

1. When a congregation requires pastoral or transitional pastoral leadership and would like to consider a candidate whose ordination in good standing, prior service, and/or training are not in a denomination in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the session of that congregation shall consult formally with the Committee on the Church's Ministry through its presbytery liaisons before any formal or informal conversations are conducted with any such candidate.
2. Through its assigned liaisons and its appropriate Examinations Subcommittee, the Presbytery's Committee on the Church's Ministry shall determine whether, when, and to what extent the person's ability to lead, teach, preach, and provide pastoral care may or may not serve the present and future mission and vision of the congregation in a manner consistent with Presbyterian theology and polity, and the ethos of The Presbytery of Arkansas and the Presbyterian Church (USA). This determination shall be made in a formal examination by the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee and approved by the Committee on the Church's Ministry.
3. In addition in order to preside at the Lord's Supper or to celebrate a baptism or be the officiant for a session-authorized wedding of the PCUSA congregation, a potential pastor, transitional pastor, minister, or leader whose credentials in good standing are in a denomination not in full communion with the PCUSA, shall normally be required to pursue pre-approved coursework in the following areas:
  - a. Reformed Theology (*Book of Confessions*)
  - b. Reformed Understanding of the Sacraments (*Book of Confessions* and "Directory for Worship")
  - c. Presbyterian Polity (*Book of Order*)

4. Following the completion of the above coursework or its equivalent, the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on the Church's Ministry shall examine the candidate again and may—at the Committee on the Church's Ministry's sole discretion—specifically authorize the individual to exercise one or more of the following pastoral functions if it judges the exercise of that function by that individual to be desirable for the church's ongoing ministry:
  - a. Presiding at the Lord's Supper
  - b. Celebrating a baptism
  - c. Serving as the officiant for a session-authorized wedding of the congregation

Such authorization shall apply only to the congregation, context, and time-frame specified by the Committee on the Church's Ministry.

5. In no event shall a ~~No~~ pastor, transitional pastor, minister, or other leader whose ordination, prior service, and training are not in a denomination in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA) ~~shall~~ moderate the Session of a congregation of the Presbytery of Arkansas unless/until such leader shall be elected and ordained as a ruling elder or teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).