

Are You Ready for Final Assessment?

Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a teaching elder shall include ... a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment (NFoG, G-2.0607)

During the year before final assessment, aim to accomplish the following:

- File all your forms with the presbytery office (e.g. Form 5A, 5B)
- Pass all your ordination exams
- Successfully complete your Field Education
- Successfully complete Clinical Pastoral Education
- Attend the special workshops on Fiscal Fitness and Boundary training
- Undergo a Career Evaluation and Psychological Assessment with NCMDC (consult with your CPM advisor to discern whether Level 2 is a good option for you)

A few months before the final assessment examination with the CPM, aim to:

- Meet with your CPM liaison and/or sub-group
- Schedule a final assessment date with the CPM Chair
- Prepare the documents listed below

Three weeks before your final assessment meeting with CPM, be certain the following documents are on file with the presbytery office. They will be circulated to the committee (see *Manual on the Preparation for Ministry of Word and Sacrament* for more information):

- PIF
- Statement of Faith
- Written sermon, plus a description of contemporary need to which it was addressed and an exegetical interpretation of the biblical material out of which the sermon arose
- Seminary transcripts showing graduation date and satisfactory grades
- Two recent recommendations

On the day of your final assessment:

- Pray!
- Prepare to present 10 minutes of your sermon
- Anticipate questions on your Statement of Faith, PIF, sermon, exegesis, areas of growth and calling...

As you prepare for the big day, take some time to reflect on your journey, both past and future:

- In what ways do you now feel ready to fulfill your call to serve?

December 27, 2012

- How is your faith stronger, deeper, and more mature now than it was when you began the process?
- What drew you to ministry and what continues to motivate you?
- Where do you see yourself in 1, 5, 10 years?
- In what setting (small church, large church, hospital, etc.) do you see yourself best fitted for ministry?
- What special talents do you bring to this work?
- On what areas of personal growth will you continue to work?

Final piece of advice from some who have been there:

- Anticipate what the “day to day” life of a pastor might be: are you ready to provide Christian education, pastoral counseling, budget administration, and general all-around handy skills like plumbing?