

**PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA**  
**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY**

1. Inquirers may apply to become Candidates when they are nearing completion of two years of seminary education and when the Inquirer, his or her Session, and the committee all recognize that the Inquirer has a call to ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
2. In preparing the application for candidacy, the Inquirer must write six essays, (less than one page each) to the six “outcomes of inquiry” as found in the PC(USA) Advisory Handbook in the Inquiry Phase section (“deciding about suitability for ordered ministry” sub-section).
3. In addition, a preliminary Statement of Faith must be submitted. The Statement of Faith must be limited to one page and should be personal enough that the committee knows it is coming from the personal depths of the Inquirer. The Statement of Faith should reflect a commitment to the Reformed faith and an appreciation of Presbyterian governance and mission. The statement should include beliefs about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, as well as the sacraments and the mission of the church in the world today. Inquirers should be conscious of how they employ inclusive language.
4. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry also requires the preparation of a one page Statement of Motivation for choosing ordained ministry as a vocation. This is not a statement of faith but is an opportunity to address one's faith experience, participation in the life and mission of the church, and indications of how God has been guiding the person toward ordained ministry. It will be presented to the Presbytery.
5. The Inquirer must arrange a meeting with the session of his/her congregation, and the session must endorse the Inquirer for candidacy before the Committee on Preparation for Ministry acts on the application for candidacy. The Inquirer and the Session both are responsible for seeing that Form 5A is properly filled out, signed by the Inquirer and by a session representative (usually the clerk) and sent to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and the chair of CPM.
6. The Inquirer should arrange with the chair of CPM for candidacy review with CPM. The committee will carefully review the materials prepared by the Inquirer and will examine the Inquirer with care, recognizing that the transition from Inquirer to Candidate is momentous vocational step. In contrast to the vocational exploration phase that is appropriate for Inquirers, it is the expectation of the presbytery that Candidates will meet all the requirements for ordination, receive a call, and proceed to ordination.

7. If CPM votes to recommend that the Inquirer be enrolled as a Candidate, the Inquirer will be presented to the presbytery for examination on personal faith, experience in Christian service, and motives for seeking ordination