

# Annual Report of Validated Ministries & Members at Large

## Presbytery of Northumberland

### THE BOOK OF ORDER CONCERNING PRESBYTERY MEMBERSHIP -2.0502

#### Presbytery and the Teaching Elder

As the Lord has set aside through calling certain members to be teaching elders, so the church confirms that call through the action of the presbytery. The presbytery shall determine whether a particular work may be helpful to the church in mission and is a call to validated ministry requiring ordination as a teaching elder. In the performance of that ministry, the teaching elder shall be accountable to the presbytery. Teaching elders have membership in the presbytery by action of the presbytery itself, and no pastoral relationship may be established, changed, or dissolved without the approval of the presbytery.

#### G-2.0503 Categories of Membership

A teaching elder is a member of a presbytery and shall be engaged in a ministry validated by that presbytery, a member-at-large as determined by the presbytery, or honorably retired.

#### **Engaged in a Validated Ministry—A validated ministry shall:**

- (1) demonstrate conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order of this church;
- (2) serve and aid others, and enable the ministry of others;
- (3) give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word;
- (4) be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served; and
- (5) include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA) (G-5.0201).

When teaching elders are called to validated ministry beyond the jurisdiction of the church, they shall give evidence of a quality of life that helps to share the ministry of the good news. They shall participate in a congregation, in their presbytery, and in ecumenical relationships and shall be eligible for election to the higher councils of the church and to the boards and agencies of those councils. The presbytery shall review annually the work of all teaching elders engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation.

#### **Member-at-large**

A member-at-large is a teaching elder who has previously been engaged in a validated ministry, and who now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, **is no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-2.0503a**. A teaching elder may be designated a member-at-large because he or she is limited in his or her ability to engage in a ministry fulfilling all of the criteria for a validated ministry due to family responsibilities or other individual circumstances recognized by the presbytery. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-2.0503a as possible and shall actively participate in the life of a congregation. A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of the presbytery and to speak, vote, and hold office. The status of member-at-large shall be reviewed annually.

**Annual Review of Validated Ministries & Members at Large**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark One: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Validated Minister Name of Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Minister at Large: \_\_\_\_\_ Date you received this designation \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your activities in this past year as a Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament):

1. Your participation in a Local church
2. Your participation in the life of the Presbytery/Synod/GA
3. How does your ministry serve, aid, or enable the ministry of others
4. Please indicate how the Presbytery COM might better support you in your professional work, your calling as a Teaching Elder, and in your spiritual journey.

Please return this form along with the following documentation that would help the COM better understand your work in their report to the Presbytery:

1. Copy of current Job description
2. Copy of your current contract or Terms of Call

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Send this document to: The Presbytery of Northumberland, ATTN: Stated Clerk and COM, PO Box 334, Montoursville, PA 17754 or FAX to 570-368-3907 or email to: [Presbynorth@comcast.net](mailto:Presbynorth@comcast.net)

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Date received authorization letter from other governing body (if applies): \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_