

Charlotte Presbytery
Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Adopted January 13, 2000

**Failure to Move Toward an Outer Call:
A Justification for Termination of Candidacy**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry of Charlotte Presbytery is concerned by the length of time that some candidates remain under care. The following guidelines have been developed to help the Committee determine when the preparation process should be terminated.

CPM recognizes that it is best to gate-keep at the beginning rather than the end of the process. Therefore, inquirers should not be moved into candidacy until it is clear that they will be able to complete the final phase of the process.

Section G-14.0305 of the *Book of Order* (1999-2000) lists the ways in which candidates seeking ordination shall demonstrate readiness. The following considerations offer elaboration and suggest ways to evaluate readiness.

An inquirer or candidate:

- does not keep up with paperwork required by CPM.
- demonstrates poor relational skills.
- fails to grow in clarity of call.
- is unable to articulate his or her faith.
- lacks comfort with the Bible, church history, theology, or Presbyterian polity.
- has difficulty discussing the substance of his or her faith.
- is closed to diversity or primarily seeks the company of similar individuals.
- disagrees with PC(USA) positions and traditions.
- lacks confirmation by the greater church, seminary, session, or calling congregation.
- fails to seek a call at the appropriate point in the process.
- demonstrates little attempt at spiritual development.
- delays the search for the outer call after receiving an inner call.
- fails to make the call concrete in service or work.
- does not take an active part in the life of a PC(USA) congregation.

These considerations apply primarily to candidates who have graduated from seminary with satisfactory grades and passed all ordination exams. They may also be applied to inquirers who fail to make sufficient progress toward candidacy. In the absence of a call, seminary graduates will be asked to present compelling evidence for continuing their status as candidates for Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Information about readiness can be gathered from the written documents submitted by the person under care, conversations with the CPM and Session liaisons, observations of the individual at special events, the counseling report, discussions at the Annual Consultation, from persons who provide references, and from additional interviews with the candidate.