

Hearing the Call to Become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament

Presbyterians believe in “the ministry of all the baptized”—that all church members, regardless of their occupational choice, are engaged in ministry. That is their Christian vocation. Some among them may be called by the Holy Spirit, through the church, to serve as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. That ministry, then, is one among many occupations through which men and women express their God-given interests and abilities in life and daily work. Response to this calling, as to every other, is approached through a careful process of exploration and testing within the community of faith during which gifts and motivations are evaluated in light of the needs of the church and the world.

From the *Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry* (Rel.2.1,
prepared by Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the
General Assembly, PC(USA), December 2017

If you believe you are experiencing an inner pull, a call by the Holy Spirit, to serve God as an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament, the place to begin to explore your response is in your congregation. Talk with your pastor, other clergy, your fellow church members, and others who know you well. Ask their opinions about your strengths and weaknesses, whether they perceive gifts for ministry in you. Pray for and ask others for prayers for discernment about what God is calling you to do. Read “Discerning Your Call and Your Gifts for Ministry,” <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/discerning-your-call-and-your-gifts-ministry-word/> .

If you decide to continue this exploration by coming under the care of the Presbytery of Charlotte, please go to the Preparation for Ministry section of the Presbytery on Charlotte’s website (under Program Areas) and read the Committee on Preparation for Ministry’s (CPM) welcome letter and the process letter. These resources will serve as a helpful guide. <http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/program-areas/preparation-for-ministry/>

On that same webpage, you can download and complete the forms under “Application Forms to Enroll as an Inquirer.” Note that Form I-D requires your session’s endorsement. Then make an appointment with the Presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) for an interview [here](#). All completed forms should be sent to the Coordinator for CPM: Lisa Dillard, Coordinator for CPM, Presbytery of Charlotte, 2831 N. Sharon Amity Road, Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28205-6605. Telephone: 980-207-5211. Email: presbyteryofcharlottecpm@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you for your interview to become an Inquirer. Your pastor and session liaison are always invited to accompany you to any of your meetings with the CPM. We are excited to begin this rewarding journey with you!

Yours in Christ,

Carol Hassell, CPM Co-Moderator Ron Nelson, CPM Co-Moderator

Presbytery of Charlotte Committee on Preparation for Ministry