

**CHAPTER NINE**  
**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

I. Membership

- A. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) consists of nine (9) members, divided into three classes of three each. The membership of each class is divided between ruling and teaching elders to maintain an equal balance between each category at the time each new class is elected (to include any members elected to fill unexpired terms).
- B. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery serves *ex-officio* on the CPM, without vote, for the purpose of conducting correspondence pertaining to this Committee, its inquirers, and candidates. The Executive Presbyter also serves *ex-officio* on this Committee, without vote.
- C. A quorum is a simple majority of the elected members present in person.

II. Purpose and Accountability

A. Purpose

The purpose of the CPM Committee is to:

- 1. Guide the preparation of those who are members of churches of this Presbytery to become teaching elders pursuant to *BoO* G-3.0301a and G-3.0307.
- 2. Maintain covenant relationships with individuals of the Presbytery seeking to become teaching elders and with their sessions and congregations pursuant to *BoO* G-2.0601.
- 3. Fulfill the Presbytery's responsibilities related to those preparing for ministry as defined by *BoO* G-2.06.

- B. The CPM is directly accountable to, and reports directly to, the Presbytery.

III. Duties

The CPM:

- A. Assists the Presbytery in fulfilling its functions related to inquirers and candidates as required by the *BoO*;
- B. Administers scholarship funds according to the policies and directives of Presbytery;
- C. Counsels with pastors and sessions as they relate to "Inquirers" and "Candidates" from particular churches; and

- D. Fulfills any additional requirements specified in the CPM Process Chart.
- E. Receives inquirers and candidates from other presbyteries. This process shall include obtaining concurrence of the committee in the presbytery of membership to release the individual and transfer responsibility for oversight to this Presbytery. Such transfers might occur when:
  - 1. That individual is a member of a church that is admitted to this Presbytery through transfer from another presbytery; or
  - 2. That individual relocates to this area and joins a church of this Presbytery.

#### IV. Authority to Act

The CPM is empowered to do the following as a commission of the Presbytery, pursuant to *BoO* G-3.0109b and G-2.06, provided that all such actions are reported to the next stated meeting of the Presbytery for incorporation in its records:

- 1. Enroll individuals as inquirers;
- 2. Advance inquirers to candidate status;
- 3. Dismiss inquirers or candidates from the preparation process;
- 4. Certify candidates ready to receive a call. Candidates are presented to the Presbytery for celebration once the candidate has been certified.
- 5. Transfer inquirers or candidates to another presbytery upon request of the inquirer or candidate and agreement by that presbytery to receive the individual and assume oversight (see *BoO* G-2.0608).