

# Seattle Presbytery Examinations

# PROCESS OVERVIEW

## Our Common Purpose

Acknowledging that we are a diverse body of Presbyterians, who disagree on some issues but are joined together as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Presbytery of Seattle, we seek to affirm our common foundations of faith and to function with mutual forbearance as we examine candidates for ordination. We delight in affirming together:

- Our faith in the triune God who creates, redeems, sustains, rules and transforms all things and all people;
- That Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world, its sanctification, and for its service to God;
- That to be joined with one another in Christ is to become priests for one another, praying for the world and for one another and sharing the various gifts God has given to each Christian for the benefit of the whole community.
- In gratitude for Christ's work of redemption, we rely upon the work of God's Spirit through Scripture and the means of grace to form every believer and every community for living holy lives worthy of the Gospel we proclaim.

Therefore, we seek to examine candidates for ministry faithfully and with mutual respect, especially in light of disagreements within our Reformed understandings. It is our desire to encourage one another, to discern together, and to vote our consciences trusting the Holy Spirit to keep us under the authority of Scripture, guided by our confessions and governed by our polity. Our examinations process is further detailed at [seapres.org](http://seapres.org).

## Preparation for Ordination

We understand that all those to be examined have been positively recommended by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) which confirms the successful completion of the following requirements:

- A CPM-approved academic degree such as an M. Div. from an accredited seminary
- PC(USA) Bible Content Exam and the four Standard Ordination Exams in the areas of Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity
- Discussing and signing the CPM Acknowledgment

Form (see below)

- All other criteria of the CPM such as CPE, preaching, annual consultations, statement of faith, etc.

## CPM Acknowledgment Form

- I will be continually guided by PCUSA's Constitution (Book of Confession and Book of Order).
- I have received or will receive training in Abuse Prevention promptly as required.
- I understand and agree to adhere to PCUSA's Standards of Ethical Conduct.
- I will conduct my life in a manner that is faithful to the gospel and consistent with my public ministry. (Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. (G-2.0104b)
- I have had opportunity to discuss any questions and/or areas of difference about anything above with designated representatives of CPM.

## Examination Process

The Moderator shall serve the presbytery by upholding our common purpose with the assistance of the Clerk and parliamentary procedure.

The CPM shall present the following in writing before introducing each person: basic personal information including name, place of birth, session of care, presbytery of care, and seminary; essay/statement of faith.

The presbytery shall seek agreement, sometimes expressed as consensus rather than unanimity. Acknowledging both our broad agreement on central truths and also our sustained disagreements on specific issues, the presbytery shall seek to act with mutual forbearance as we vote with the following options: yes, no, or abstain. It is our hope that these voting options provide presbyters the opportunity to discern and vote their consciences faithfully in ways that uphold our common purpose and allow for freedom of conscience.

The presbytery shall publish the current examinations process on the website including PCUSA's Standard of Ethical Conduct and the standard questions our EP, COM, and CPM shall ask each candidate.