

Questions asked by COM of candidates:

It's important to remember that all the questions asked seek to clarify (as may be needed) the candidate's statement of faith as well as help COM determine how they will fit with the congregation calling them as well as the Seattle Presbytery. Not every question below is asked of every candidate and there are also questions that may arise from an individual's statement of faith that aren't listed below. These are all asked in a conversational setting so there is back and forth as the time progresses.

Why are you a Christian? How does one become a Christian?

Why are you a Presbyterian?

Which creeds or confessions in our Book of Confessions are most meaningful to you?

What guidelines would you give to a nominating committee for its selection of elder and deacon candidates?

Why do you feel called to the ministry of word and sacrament and to the particular position for which you are being considered?

What is your understanding of your own ordination as a minister of word and sacrament?

What decision was made at the last GA that you feel was important and why?

What theological questions are you currently wrestling with?

In conflict situations how has our form of government been helpful to you?

As a Presbyterian how do you relate to other bodies of faith?

How do you see yourself in relation to the presbytery?

What happens in Christian Baptism?

How does our form of government reflect our theology?

What happens in the Eucharist/Lord's Supper?

"The Protestant watchwords – grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone – embody the principles of understanding which continue to guide and motivate people of God in the life of Faith." What do each of these terms mean to you? How have they influenced your personal belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

How do you define "Reformed Tradition?"

How have you changed theologically over the course of your faith journey?

What question did we not ask that you wish we had?

The Seattle EP contacts the EP from the Presbytery the candidate is currently in and asks certain questions of them. These include the following(not a complete list)

1. Are there any red flags?
2. Are there any disciplinary allegations or charges pending?
3. How long have you know this pastor?
4. What are their strengths and weaknesses?
5. Has the person been involved in the presbytery and if so how?
6. How are they perceived by others?
7. Do they know how to build healthy relationships?
8. Where is the person at theologically?
9. Here is the kind of church and position the person is interested in. Does that seem to fit the personality and skills of this person?
10. Would you want to call this person to your church?
11. Are there any other questions I should ask or comments you would like to make?