

**Policy #7**  
**Receiving Ministers from other Denominations and Candidates from other Presbyteries**  
**Committee on Ministry – Presbytery of Tampa Bay**

In most of their work the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry have separate roles and functions. However, the two committees share a function at the point of examining ministers and candidates seeking membership within the presbytery. In this regard, the Book of Order speaks of examinations being carried out through the “appropriate committee” of the presbytery (G-11.0402). The COM and CPM have agreed to the following policies:

1. In the case of a minister member of another presbytery of the PC(USA) seeking membership in the presbytery, the appropriate committee for examination shall be the COM.
2. In the case of a minister who is a member in one of the Formula of Agreement denominations (United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Reformed Church of America), and who wishes to remain a member of that denomination, the appropriate committee for examination shall be the COM.
  - a. The minister must submit the following documents: a letter of good standing from an appropriate denominational official, a PIF, a one-page statement of faith, a one-page biographical statement, and a signed Form F-4.
  - b. The first COM examination will determine whether to give permission to the minister to circulate a PIF to positions within the presbytery.
  - c. After the minister is offered a call, a second COM interview will take place to determine the minister’s suitability for the particular pastoral call to a church or for other work within the presbytery.
3. In the case of a minister of another denomination seeking membership in the presbytery:
  - a. All the requirements of G-11.0404 shall be met. With regard to the matters covered in G-11.0404a-c, the responsible committee shall be the CPM. With regard to the matters covered in G-11.0404 d-e, the responsible committee shall be the COM. The requirements of G-11.0404f shall be the responsibility of the CPM.
  - b. The CPM shall report its findings with regard to academic credentials and standard ordination examinations to the COM. If examination scores and credentials are in order, the remainder of the examination process shall proceed at the discretion of the COM. A member of the CPM who is familiar with the minister’s file shall be invited to sit with the COM (with voice and vote) during the COM’s examination of the minister.
  - c. If the committee examination so warrants, the minister shall be presented to the presbytery by the COM. The presbytery may pursue any further examination it deems necessary and the minister shall answer questions for ordination.

4. In the case of a candidate of this presbytery seeking membership in Tampa Bay:
  - a. The appropriate committee for examination as to the candidate's readiness for ordination shall be the CPM. The appropriate committee for examination as to the candidate's suitability for the particular call which has been extended shall be the COM.
  - b. When the candidate is presented to the presbytery, the COM shall first affirm that the candidate has received a validated call. The CPM shall then proceed with its report and recommendation after which the presbytery may conduct any further examination it deems necessary.
5. In the case of a candidate of another presbytery seeking membership in Tampa Bay:
  - a. The CPM shall request all the necessary documentation from the candidate's presbytery and shall review the documentation for completeness.
  - b. The remainder of the examination process shall be the responsibility of the COM. A member of the CPM who is familiar with the candidate's file shall be invited to sit with the COM (with voice and vote) during the committee's examination of the candidate.
  - c. The candidate shall be presented to the presbytery by the COM, with any further examination the COM or the presbytery feels necessary.