

## Transferring Membership to Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

The Commission on Ministry has agreed to a process that, we hope, will make it easier and more welcoming for ministers of other denominations to become members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The full process is laid out in the *Book of Order* G-2.0505 which basically requires any minister seeking membership in the Presbyterian Church (USA) to fulfill the same requirements that we demand of our own candidates for ordination. The list of these requirements is found at G-2.0607.

Recognizing *both* that there are allowances for exceptions (G-2.0610) *and* that ministers who have served for many years have demonstrated mastery of many of the qualifications that the standard ordination exams test for, the Commission on Ministry has agreed to *recommend* to the Presbytery for admission those ministers who have a solid record of service of ten or more years waivers of certain of the requirements that we expect of our own candidates for ordination.

Thus, the Commission on Ministry will present to the Presbytery for membership, subject to the 3/4 majority vote for exceptions to the usual practice, ministers who:

1. Are in good standing in their current denominations (i.e. no disciplinary charges have been filled) and are willing to surrender that membership upon joining the PC(USA).
2. Have an invitation to serve in one of the churches of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.
3. Possess a M.Div. degree from an accredited seminary or school of theology.
4. Demonstrate the qualifications of character and scholarship we expect by having served as ordained ministers for at least 10 years. (With this qualification the Commission on Ministry will *recommend* that the normal requirement of passing the Bible Content Exam and the Biblical Exegesis Exam be waived by the Presbytery.)
5. Show evidence of having **either** taken Greek **and** Hebrew in seminary **or** the completion of a course in **either** Greek **or** Hebrew at the college or seminary level. (With this qualification the Commission on Ministry will *recommend* that the normal requirement of having studied **both** Greek and Hebrew in seminary be waived by the Presbytery.) and
6. Pass the Standard Ordination Exams (“Senior Exams”) in 1) Reformed Theology, 2) Reformed Worship and Sacraments, and 3) Presbyterian Polity. These exams are given on-line four times per year through the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations. Details can be found at: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/prep4min/standard-ordination-exams/>

*Action of Full COM, January, 2017*