

STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN ALBANY PRESBYTERY

God has called persons to specific ministries in the church for the spreading of the gospel and the up-building of the body of Christ. Every minister, whether in parish or non-parish ministries, is therefore important to the health and life of the church at large.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Ministry (COM) to publish a standard for active membership in the Presbytery by ministers. The Book of Order requires that the Presbytery, specifically the COM, determine the proper category of membership for its ministers (G-11.0406), of which there are three, **Active**, **Member-at-Large**, and **Inactive**. Specific criteria for membership in any Presbytery are set forth in G-11.0403.

The Book of Order (G-11.0406b) states that:

- **Active Membership** requires that such a person fill **all** the criteria in G-11.0403, without exception;
- **Members-at-Large** shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 as possible;
- **Inactive Member** is one who is voluntarily engaged in an occupation that **does not** comply with all the criteria in G-11.0403.

The last two categories present the COM with the task of interpretation. Interpretive aid is given by the constitutional questions asked at the time of a minister's ordination (G-14.0405).

G-6.0203 states: "In addition to fulfilling the particular responsibilities to which they (educators, chaplains, and others) are called, they shall participate in a congregation, in their presbytery, and in ecumenical relationships, and shall be eligible for election to the higher governing bodies of the church and to the boards and agencies of those governing bodies.

For requirements to be fulfilled, a minister must actively participate in the life and work and worship in Presbytery.

Recommended Minimal Requirements for At-Large Membership Status

G-11.0403e requires that "the ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the work and service of a congregation." For non-parish ministries, a minimal requirement is participation in Communion with a particular congregation at least quarterly and a financial commitment to that same congregation.

Ministers should make themselves available to preach (approve preaching list) at least quarterly. They should attend Presbytery at least twice annually and be available for other work such as committees or task forces when asked.

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