

Serve with Imagination – SOLT Leadership Gathering
February 24-26, 2025

The Outsiders – Pathways to Leadership for Non-Presbyterian Pastors

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In addition to CREs, how do we work with ministers from other denominations who are called to lead Presbyterian congregations? Where are the spaces in our polity for such leadership? What benefits can the Board of Pensions provide? Should we pursue these opportunities through CPM, COM, or other presbytery entities? What pathways do we provide sessions and PNCs who are seeking leadership beyond Ministers of Word and Sacrament?

Discussion topics and resources:

1. This is a current reality – ministers serving PCUSA congregations from other denominations. What are presbyteries experiencing? (Discussion)
 - a. Formula of Agreement Churches – ELCA, UCC, RCA
 - b. Other mainline traditions – UMC, CC(DOC), TEC, ABC,
 - c. Various Baptist traditions
 - d. “Independent” traditions, even independent “Presbyterian” traditions.
 - e. Others

2. How does this start?
 - a. Often a request from a congregation, a PNC, a Session, or a minister, yes?
 - i. What requests have presbyteries received?
 - b. This is not an abstract matter, but existential.

3. Our Theology and Tradition and Book of Order all help:
 - a. “To be Presbyterian is to be _____?”
 - b. John Calvin: “I would cross seven seas _____.”
 - c. F-1.0402 *Ecumenicity*
 - d. F-1.0404 *Openness* (“a new openness to see both the possibilities and perils of its institutional form in order to. . . .”)
 - e. G-2.0505 *Transfer of Ministers of Other Denomination*
 - f. G-2.0506 *Temporary Membership in Presbytery for a Period of Service*

4. Work of COM, possibly CPM, in this process:
 - a. Set up a time to meet with the minister
 - i. A “Fit” Interview

- b. Ask for credentials (before the meeting) – Resume / education, seminary / graduate training / ordination certificate / references from others.
 - c. Background check – always.
 - d. Often learning PCUSA Polity is a need, so require a Polity class with a seminary, online options available, Google and PCUSA website search.
 - e. Approval by COM / Presbytery – temporary pastoral relationship (usually)
 - f. If a Transfer is requested, work between CPM and COM.
 - g. Assign a COM Liaison / mentor / experienced Ruling Elder or Minister to meet with Clerk and Minister for preparation of Session Meeting dockets / agendas – and ask the Session to pay a fee for this (some skin in the game).
5. Board of Pensions benefits – call and ask!
- a. Retirement Savings Plan – 403b
6. Consult – Consult – Consult –
- a. AMCL
 - b. ASC
 - c. Board of Pensions Regional Consultants