

## Criteria for Validation of Membership

The Boston Presbytery has set forth the following criteria for validating ministries within its bounds.

- A. Holding herself or himself out as a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church USA in conducting her or his ministry or ministries; and
- B. Engaging in one or more of the following ministries:
  - Ministry within the Presbytery's congregations as pastors or co-pastors,
  - Ministries within the Presbytery's congregations as Christian educators, musicians, or administrators,
  - Administrators or workers in mission projects such as homeless shelters, food banks, healthcare facilities, daycare programs, after-school programs and human service programs,
  - Chaplaincies or other work at educational institutions, hospitals, hospices, nursing organizations, rehabilitation centers and nursing homes, or medical research organizations,
  - Pastoral Counseling services for pastors including spiritual direction, financial and retirement planning, debt management and career planning,
  - Pastoral Counseling services for non-pastors,
  - Pastoral Education services such as teaching at a seminary or other educational institutions,
  - Spiritual Direction and Formation,
  - Ministries in other service of the PCUSA that are related by organization, accountability, or structure to governing bodies, agencies, mission and ministry units or seminaries,
  - Work in interdenominational organizations such as councils of churches, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), CROP, and the Heifer Project,
  - Ministries beyond the jurisdiction of this church such as nondenominational organizations dealing with housing programs, drug and alcohol addiction or marriage and family problems, or
  - Such other ministry or ministries that meets all of the standards set forth in G-2.0503, as determined by the Committee on Ministry on a case-by-case basis based on the particular facts and circumstances.

These criteria are based upon the descriptions ordained office found in G-2.0101 and the following standards (G-2.0503):

1. The ministry of continuing members shall be in demonstrable conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the *Book of Order* of this church. The ministry must demonstrate that it in concert with the overall mission of Boston Presbytery as stated above and be in "conformity with the mission of God's people."
2. The ministry shall be one that serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others.
3. The ministry shall give evidence of use of theologically informed skills as well as fidelity to God's Word. This will normally require the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and the completion of the requirements for ordination set forth in G-2.0607.
4. The ministry shall be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery and to organizations, agencies, and institutions.
5. The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship and service of a congregation.