

EVANGELIST IN PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES

The Office of Evangelist is foundational in the Christian Church. From early times of the church, Evangelists have been called to begin various ministries and congregations. Their work ordinarily consists of exploring the possibilities for a new mission or actually beginning that new mission.

W-7.2000 reflects this mission and ministry of the church in the world:

“God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit

- a. to announce the good news that in Christ Jesus the world is reconciled to God;
- b. to tell all nations and peoples of Christ’s call to repentance, faith, and obedience.
- c. to proclaim in deed and word that Jesus gave himself to set people free.
- d. to offer in Christ’s name fullness of life now and forever.
- e. to call people everywhere to believe in and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- f. to invite them into the community of faith to worship and serve the triune God.”

G-3.0306 reflects the commitment of the Presbyterian Church to appointing Evangelists to further the mission and ministry of the church:

The presbytery may designate teaching elders to work as teachers, evangelists, administrators, chaplains, and in other forms of ministry recognized as appropriate by the presbytery. Those so designated may administer the Sacraments at times and places authorized by the presbytery. Every teaching elder shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situation or of the presbytery where she or he resides. A teaching elder who is serving in a church outside the United States may, with the approval of the presbytery, accept membership in that church for the period of time of such service without affecting his or her membership in a presbytery of this church.

The Presbytery of the James seeks to utilize the office of Evangelist within our bounds in order to extend the mission and ministry of the church.

Procedure for Appointment:

New Church Development Purpose Group:

Appointment of a minister member as an Evangelist shall be initiated by the New Church Development Purpose Group (NCDPG) of the Presbytery. After determining the need for an Evangelist for a particular ministry, the NCDPG shall seek a person to fill that office. When prepared, the Committee shall approach the Committee on Ministry to validate and qualify a Teaching Elder to become Evangelist.

An oversight committee (similar to a Steering Committee) would be constituted or recognized by the NCDPG. Where Session oversight is not in place, a partnership with a particular congregation would be created in order that the new ministry might be able to receive constitutional permission for the sacraments, membership, and other needed areas.

Committee on Ministry:

The Office of Evangelist is a temporary Teaching Elder position within the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Committee on Ministry shall examine the candidate to determine suitability for this work. The following requirements are the minimum necessary for a person to be appointed as Evangelist:

1. Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) (in accord with G-2.0501)
2. Member of the Presbytery of the James
3. Recommendation by the NCDPG of the Presbytery.
4. A sense of calling to this work and suitability for the proposed work.
5. Evangelist Covenant with terms of call.
6. Designated term for the work (normally a 3 year term which can be renewed)

The Committee on Ministry shall examine a potential candidate upon recommendation of the NCDPG and shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall make the appointment and the Evangelist shall work under the direction of the NCDPG in conjunction with the oversight committee.

It is appropriate to have a commissioning service for the newly appointed Evangelist.

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