

## **FULL COMMUNION POLICY**

For pastors serving in congregations of The Presbytery of the James, who are members of denominations with whom we are in full communion.

### **Guidelines**

The 209<sup>th</sup> General Assembly approved, and the 210<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (1998) declared A FORMULA OF AGREEMENT between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ to enter into full communion with each other (see Appendix C, Book of Order). All of these denominations are of Reformation heritage.

The subcommittee recommends that there should be alternative ways for candidates to fulfill the polity requirement. The subcommittee of the POJ recommends to the Committee on Ministry that one of the following three ways be satisfactorily completed to satisfy the polity requirement:

- A. Successful completion of a Presbyterian polity course approved by the Examinations Subcommittee.
- B. A tutorial with a person approved by the Examinations Subcommittee, length to be determined by the tutor.
- C. Satisfactory completion of the PC (USA) Standard Ordination Exam on Polity.

On A, B, and C choices above, the candidate shall also observe Session meetings at two churches moderated by different pastors.

Note: All pastoral nominating committees and their liaisons should have this policy explained to them early in their search processes.

Approved COM August 11, 2005  
February 9, 2012