

## Validated Ministry

**Each presbytery must have a policy to guide its decisions about what constitutes a validated ministry**

### ***Membership designations***

**An active member** (G-11.0406a) is a minister of Word and Sacrament who has been admitted to the presbytery in accordance with G-11.0401, and is now engaged in ministry that complies with all of the criteria in G-11.0403 without exception. An active member may be engaged in

- a validated ministry within congregations of the church (G-11.0409),
- in a validated ministry in other service of this church (G-11.0410),
- in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction of this church (G-11.0411),
- or may be honorably retired (G-11.0412).

An active member is entitled to take part in the meetings of the presbytery and to speak, vote, and hold office. (G-11.0406a)

**A member-at-large** (G-11.0406b) is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who has previously been admitted to the presbytery or another presbytery as an active member, and who now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, is no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-11.0403. A minister may be designated a member-at-large because he or she is limited in his or her ability to engage in a ministry fulfilling all of the criteria for a validated ministry because of family responsibilities or other individual circumstances which presbytery recognizes as important. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-11.0403 as possible and shall be encouraged to become a parish associate in a congregation.

A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of the presbytery and to speak, vote, and hold office. The status of each member-at-large may be granted by the presbytery upon the minister's application and shall be reviewed annually. (G-11.0406b)

**An Inactive member** (G-11.0406c) is a minister of the Word and Sacrament who has previously been admitted to the presbytery or another presbytery as an active member, but is now voluntarily engaged in an occupation that does not comply with all of the criteria in G-11.0403. The presbytery may, at the minister's request or on its own initiative after notifying the minister in person or by certified mail at the last known address, determine that the minister's category of membership is that of inactive member.

*An inactive member is not entitled to take part in the meetings of the presbytery or to speak, vote, hold office, or serve on committees, except that the inactive member may speak when the matter under consideration concerns that minister.*

The continued status of each inactive member shall be reviewed annually up to three years. If at the end of three years the minister has not been restored to active

membership or membership-at-large, the presbytery shall delete that person's name from the appropriate roll of presbytery. (G-6.0600)