

GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION
See Preparation for Ministry Advisor Handbook, pp. 22-27

- 1) Developing among church members an awareness of their Christian vocation and challenging them with responsible Christian stewardship of their talents.
- 2) Encouraging persons with appropriate motivation and abilities to consider preparation for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament or other church occupations.
- 3) Contacting the Moderator of the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry when a church member indicates a desire to pursue his or her sense of call to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.
- 4) Meeting for orientation on the preparation process with representative(s) from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- 5) Interviewing applicants who request to be enrolled as Inquirers, and making a recommendation to the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry regarding the application. (G- 14.0303d).
- 6) Appointing an elder to be a liaison person with the applicant and the CPM if he or she is enrolled as an Inquirer by the Presbytery.

Note: *If the Session, the Committee, or the Presbytery decides not to accept the individual for enrollment as an Inquirer at this time, the Session continues to provide support, counsel, and guidance to the individual as he or she seeks to discover an appropriate occupational expression of Christian vocation.*

- 7) Providing support and care on an on-going basis to the Inquirer including the provision of financial support.
- 8) Participating with the Inquirer and Presbytery's Committee in evaluating the Inquirer's growth and progress, receiving a copy of the Inquirer's Annual Report from the Committee.
- 9) Meeting with the Inquirer to review evidence indicating his or her readiness to proceed to Candidacy. This evidence includes a personal interview with the Inquirer, all consultation reports, and the Inquirer's demonstration of adequate promise for ministry according to the expected outcomes of the Inquiry Phase.
- 10) Making a decision regarding whether to recommend to Presbytery that the Inquirer proceed to Candidacy Phase.
- 11) Providing support and making a statement to Presbytery, if requested, when the Inquirer is ready for admission to Candidacy Phase.
- 12) Upon approval of Candidacy by Presbytery, the Candidate and his or her Session may request that a commission of Presbytery conduct a service of reception in the presence of the Candidate's congregation.
- 13) Providing continued support and pastoral care to the Candidate and his or her family, maintaining the liaison relationship with both the Candidate and the Presbytery Committee and considering the provision of financial support for the Candidate.
- 14) Receiving and reviewing reports of each Annual Consultation.
- 15) Removing the Candidate's name from the church roll when notice is received of his or her ordination.

Note: *It is important to remember that the Session acts as an advocate for both Inquirers and Candidates and, through its moderator and Presbytery commissioner(s), can call the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry to accountability in fulfilling its responsibilities.*