

Suggestions for EXAMINATIONS

For Candidacy and Ordination

Candidacy Exams and Candidacy Essays:

In their written response to the committee Inquirers are instructed to reflect upon the following:

- What have you learned about yourself during the discernment process of inquiry?
- How has your faith grown during this process?
- What have you learned about the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament and how well suited are you to this office?
- Why do you believe that the Presbyterian Church is the best place to act on this call to ministry?

The CPM presents these essays in preparation for the examination of Inquirers being recommended for enrollment as Candidates. During the Candidacy Examination the Presbytery may only ask questions regarding the Inquirer's

- Christian faith
- Forms of Christian service undertaken
- Motives for seeking the ministry.

Ordination Exams and Statements of Faith:

Explanation: Presbytery is free to ask any questions as they relate to the topics listed below in the paragraph from the Book of Order. These sample questions are provided as examples that may help keep ordination exams on track. In addition, Presbytery Delegates are encouraged to frame their questions on these topics in the context of pastoral ministry, by, perhaps, giving a context or example that raises the issue, and are also encouraged to tailor their questions to points raised in the Candidate's Statement of Faith.

"The presbytery shall examine each teaching elder or candidate who seeks membership in it on his or her Christian faith and views in theology, the Sacraments, and the government of this church." (G-3.0306)

Christian Faith:

- What practices are most meaningful for you right now in staying connected with God?
- Why is it important to you to be part of the Reformed Tradition?
- Can you talk about what is meaningful for you personally in the Lord's Supper?
- How do you experience the Holy Spirit?

Theology:

- Do you think it is important to have a time of confession in worship each Sunday? Why or why not?
- What theological question are you currently wrestling with?
- What is the mission of the Church?
- "Jesus Christ was fully Human. Jesus Christ was fully Divine." Is it important that the church communicate both of these things? Why or why not?
- Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? What is the significance of, or what is added by his resurrection?
- How do you understand the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead, or how would you explain it to someone visiting you in your office?
- Many people wrestle with the presence of evil and suffering in the world and wonder how a good God could allow such things. What are a couple things you might mention in this regard?

The Bible:

- What does it mean to say that the Scriptures are authoritative?
- Can you give an example of how this looks in your own life?
- What are some of the roles scripture attributes to the Holy Spirit that are critical?

The Sacraments:

- How would you respond to a request for re-baptism from an individual who is returning to an active faith life after a long period of "dropping out?"
- The celebration of the Lord's Supper seems to be increasing in importance in many church communities. Why do you think this is so?
- How do you understand Jesus as present in the elements at the Table?

Church Government:

- How would you answer a potential elder who was considering declining a nomination because they felt "inadequate?"
- How would you imagine providing leadership to a congregation in the area of social justice?