

CALL PROCESS GUIDELINES FOR NON-PC(USA) CANDIDATES

If a congregation in need of pastoral leadership (whether currently in a formal search process or seeking transitional/temporary leadership) receives an application from a pastor who is not ordained in the PC(USA), the following process will apply:

1. The search committee shall inform the COM that it has a candidate it would like to interview who is not ordained in the PC(USA).
2. If the candidate is ordained in a denomination that is part of the Formula of Agreement (ELCA, RCA, or UCC), the COM may give permission for the church to include the candidate in its search process as it would any PC(USA) candidate.
3. If the candidate is not ordained in a Formula of Agreement denomination, the COM should promptly review the application from the candidate to determine whether the search committee may conduct a first interview, and notify the search committee accordingly.
4. If, after a first interview, the search committee decides that it would like to continue conversation with the candidate, three steps must be taken:
 - a. The search committee must inform the COM and discuss with the candidate that it would like to continue the process, that the candidate would need to meet with the CPM, and that the CPM would need to make the determinations in (b) below. The search committee and the candidate should then decide whether they would like to continue discernment together, given these additional steps and time.
 - b. The COM must refer the candidate to the CPM, for the CPM's timely determination of (1) whether the CPM might recommend to the COM that the candidate could be approved for service in a congregation of the Presbytery of Long Island, in accordance with the Book of Order and Presbytery policy; and (2) what, if any, additional requirements the candidate would need to complete (e.g., courses, ordination exams, etc.). The CPM should consult with PC(USA) staff on ecumenical relations as needed. The CPM should then promptly notify both the COM and the congregation's search committee of its determinations.
 - c. Prior to any in-person interview or visit, the Executive/General Presbyter should conduct an EP-to-EP check with a counterpart in the candidate's denomination.
5. If the search committee decides that it would like to extend a call to the candidate, the COM should, in its consultation with the candidate and the search committee, discuss the completion of any requirements expected by CPM and also explore with the candidate whether they wish to transfer their membership to the PC(USA) or become a temporary member of the presbytery.