

Equal Opportunity for Service

From the 2011-2013 Advisory Handbook for Ministry Committees/Commissions

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (USA) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution. Each congregation should have its own Equal Opportunity for Service and Affirmative Action Plan and abide by it.

- The PC(USA) is committed to equal opportunity for service. This commitment is not based on secular law but on the higher standards of our constitution.
- In completing a church information form (CIF) to search for a pastor, the pastor nominating committee (PNC) of a congregation will be asked to affirm their commitment to undertake the search for a pastor in manner consistent with the standards of our constitution.
- The presbytery, which shall determine the process for calling a pastor within the presbytery, may wish to consider how this commitment to equal opportunity for service will be carried out in the pastoral search process.

F-1.0403 Unity in Diversity (Book of Order)

"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise"
(Gal. 3:27-29).

Approved by COM on October 12, 2016