

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE POLICY

A member-at-large 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 for a validated ministry.

Minister members of the Presbytery of Southern New England may be designated as Members-at-Large by the presbytery if they meet one of the criteria listed below provided that it is their intention to return to validated ministry when the criterion no longer applies.

### Criteria for Status of Member-at-Large:

1. **Health.** Ministers who are unable to undertake ministry because of illness or disability. Persons with long term disability may remain in this status indefinitely.
2. **Transition.** A minister who is leaving a parish call or other validated ministry and who is actively seeking a call may be placed on the rolls as a Member-at-Large while his or her PIF is being circulated or until engaging in a ministry that qualifies for validation.
3. **Family Responsibilities.** Ministers who have the responsibility of caring for members of their family (children, parents, spouse, etc.), by choice or necessity, and are therefore unable to undertake active ministry.
4. **Graduate Study.** Ministers who are enrolled in graduate study related to their ministry may be designated as Member-at-Large until the completion of their studies.
5. **Minister spouse of a minister member.** The spouse of a minister member of the presbytery, who is himself/herself an ordained PC (USA) minister or ordained minister in a formula of agreement denomination, may be received as a Member-at-Large.
6. **Service Ministries.** Ministers engaged in a ministry that meets the standards stated in G-11.0403a and b, “demonstrable conformity with the mission of God’s people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order” and...



“is one that serves others, aids others, and enables the ministries of others,” but does not meet one or more of the other standards for validated ministry may be granted Member-at-Large status at the discretion of the Presbytery upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry.

A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of presbytery and to speak, vote and hold office

A minister granted member-at-large status is expected to be involved in a PC (U.S.A.) congregation or Formula of Agreement\* congregation, to attend presbytery meetings, and to demonstrate active involvement in the mission of the presbytery (such as, for example, serving on a Presbytery committee) with the intention of returning to active member status.

Ministers granted Member-at-Large status are required to submit an annual Specialized Ministers Report.

The Committee on Ministry will annually review the status of members-at-large using the guidelines of the Book of Order and the presbytery’s current policy statement (s). The decision as to whether to recommend Member-at-Large status will be based on a review of the overall nature and purpose of the ministry.

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These criteria shall be maintained in a public space by posting on the internet site of the PSNE at PSNE.org.

Concerns or questions regarding this policy should be directed to the chair of the Committee on Ministry.

Approved by Presbytery  
5/1/2010

\*Through the adoption of *A Formula of Agreement* in 1997, four churches of Reformation heritage, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ entered into a relationship of full communion.

