

LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE

Interim Report, July 2020

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION

To the Venerable, the 146th General Assembly:

At its meeting held on July 2, 2020, the Assembly Council granted power to issue to the Life and Mission Agency Committee to approve the recommendations contained in this report in the following terms:

It was agreed that the Life and Mission Agency Committee be authorized to approve the necessary and time sensitive recommendations of the Committee on Education and Reception, with any actions homologated by the next General Assembly.

The Committee on Education and Reception reviews applications of The Presbyterian Church in Canada certified candidates for ministry with three types of educational backgrounds: mature students lacking a university undergraduate degree, diaconal ministers seeking ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments and graduates of non-Presbyterian Church in Canada theological colleges. It is also the committee's responsibility to review the applications of ministers from other denominations who wish to work within this branch of the church.

The guidelines the committee uses in reviewing applications are found at p. G-11–G-14 in the Book of Reports. They were last revised and approved by the General Assembly in 2011 (A&P 2011, p. 382–94). A brief overview is provided here.

The normal educational preparation for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments or for Diaconal Ministry is a general Arts or equivalent university undergraduate degree followed by the Master of Divinity degree and the diploma of a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. This standard is used as a benchmark in recommending the educational assignments for applicants to the Committee on Education and Reception, upon approval of their application. While the educational requirements outlined below are given in terms of full-time study, the equivalent amount of part-time study is also possible.

Certified candidates for ministry between the ages of 35 and 59 years who lack a university undergraduate degree, upon approval of their application, may be assigned a General Assembly special course. Their life experience is counted towards their Arts studies, reducing their undergraduate studies from a full three-year degree to either one or two years of Arts, depending on their age. The Arts studies must be completed with a minimum of a B average. These are followed by three years of theology in the M.Div. program of a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (fulfilling most of the requirements of the M.Div. but not always qualifying to receive the degree). Certified candidates younger than 35 years of age are ineligible for a General Assembly special course; they are required to complete a university undergraduate degree before entering M.Div. studies.

Certified candidates for ministry with M.Div. degrees (with a minimum B average) from theological colleges *outside* The Presbyterian Church in Canada (following the prerequisite university undergraduate degree), upon approval of their application, are assigned theological study in a college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Graduates of theological colleges affiliated with Reformed churches are typically assigned one semester plus a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Graduates of other theological colleges are normally assigned two semesters at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with courses to include a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Candidates for ministry in this category of application must have been members of a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for at least the two years preceding their application.

Ordained ministers and candidates certified for ordination in other Reformed churches, upon approval of their application, are typically assigned examinations in The Presbyterian Church in Canada history and The Presbyterian Church in Canada government. Normally receiving presbyteries may tutor and examine such ministers using local resources or may require them to study at one of our denominational colleges. Ordained ministers and candidates certified for ordination in all other churches, upon approval of their application, are typically assigned two semesters of study at one of the colleges of this church, with courses to include a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Education and Reception Committee at its meeting of April 30, 2020, decided that all future ministerial candidates must complete a workshop on Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment. All future recommendations will contain this requirements.

CASES IN WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Special Course Candidates, Certified for Ordination by Presbyteries as Shown

1. Debora A. Rolls, Presbytery of Brampton

Graduates of Other Theological Colleges, Certified for Ordination by Presbyteries as Shown

1. Young Tae Choi, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
2. Sean (Seungho) Lee, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
3. Jinsil Park, Presbytery of Assiniboia

Ministers of Other Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown

1. Michael J.R. Aldred, Presbytery of Hamilton
2. Shin Hwang, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca

Ministers of Reformed Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown

1. David Mang, Presbytery of Montreal
2. Solomon Umazi, Presbytery of Hamilton

CASES IN PROGRESS

Special Course Candidates

1. Istvan C. Farkas, Presbytery of Hamilton
Not studying
2. Guy Laberge, Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry
Studies on hold
3. Sandrah Mashingaidze, Presbytery of Pickering
Continuing studies in theology
4. Joey Rugay, Presbytery of Winnipeg
Not studying
5. Clifford Smith, Presbytery of West Toronto
Continuing studies in Arts

Graduates of Other Theological Colleges Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination

1. Nam Sun Choi, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca
Not studying
2. Anita M. Evans, Presbytery of London
Studies complete
3. Jin Hyung Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
Continuing studies in theology

Members of the Order of Diaconal Ministries Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination

1. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Presbytery of East Toronto
Not studying

Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Mahendra Christi, Presbytery of Brampton
Studies on hold

2. Mario Gundayao, Presbytery of Winnipeg
Not studying
3. Niven Harrichand, Presbytery of Pickering
No information
4. Gregory (John) Martin, Presbytery of New Brunswick
No information
5. Naggie Sterling, Kingston, Jamaica
No information
6. Ibrahim Zabaneh, Presbytery of Winnipeg
Not studying

Ministers of Reformed Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Kyo Won Lee, Australia
No information

CASES TO BE DROPPED

Recommendation (approved by the Life and Mission Agency Committee on July 14, 2020)

That the cases of Samuel D. Graham, Samuel Kim, Thomas S. Mason, Peter M.A. Mayum and Samuel Silwamba be dropped.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Special Course Candidates

1. Shirley Carleton, Presbytery of Westminster

Recommendation (approved by the Life and Mission Agency Committee on July 14, 2020)

That, in light of previous education, Shirley Carleton complete 30 semester courses or equivalent of theological study at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Graduates of Other Theological Colleges Applying for Eligibility for Certification for Ordination

1. Sanghun (Steven) Yoon, Presbytery of West Toronto

Recommendation (approved by the Life and Mission Agency Committee on July 14, 2020)

That, in light of the applicant's previous education, which includes graduation with an M.Div. degree from a theological college of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and successful completion of the examination in Presbyterian Church in Canada government, permission be granted to the Presbytery of West Toronto to examine Sanghun (Steven) Yoon for certification for ordination, subject to the successful completion of a one-year presbytery-supervised field placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada with a focus on adult and senior ministry and the completion of the full discernment process of the church over the course of at least one year, with conscientious mentorship from the presbytery and that Sanghun (Steven) Yoon be required to complete successfully an examination in Presbyterian Church in Canada history.

Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Sung Yeol Jung, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca

Recommendation (approved by the Life and Mission Agency Committee on July 14, 2020)

That Sung Yeol Jung be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this Church by August 2, 2020 and subject to the successful completion of four semester courses in theological education at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with areas of study to include The Presbyterian Church in Canada history, The Presbyterian Church in Canada government and reformed theology, and the successful completion of a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

2. Chanil Lee, Presbytery of Westminster

Recommendation (approved by the Life and Mission Agency Committee on July 14, 2020)

That the Rev. Chanil Lee be declared eligible for reception as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, subject to the successful completion of five semester courses or equivalent of theological study at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with courses to include, The Presbyterian Church in Canada history, The Presbyterian Church in Canada government, two courses with a focus on the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition (one theological and one biblical), and a supervised theological field education placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Ministers of Reformed Churches Declared Eligible for Reception

The following applicants have been declared eligible for reception, however, in some cases their eligibility for reception has not yet come into effect. In all cases, presbyteries are circularized with information about the applicants and given opportunity to raise competent objections, based on their knowledge of the individuals. Until the period for raising objections has elapsed, applicants are not permitted to apply for calls and presbyteries are not permitted to place their names on the roll.

With respect to educational requirements, all are required to complete successfully examinations in The Presbyterian Church in Canada history and The Presbyterian Church in Canada government, prior to induction. In cases when only this study is assigned, Book of Forms sections 248.12 to 248.12.6 apply. However, in other cases, Reformed Church applicants are assigned additional studies that must be completed successfully before the applicant is permitted to apply for calls or before a presbytery is permitted to place the applicant's name on its roll.

For these reasons, presbyteries are advised to confirm details with the Committee on Education and Reception before making a decision to receive one of the applicants named below.

1. Jaeho Huh, South Korea
2. Thomas Summers, USA
3. Sara Macavei-Katocz, Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg

Committee on Education and Reception

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis, the Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset, Ms. Esther Cho, Ms. Jennifer De Combe, the Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, the Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine, the Rev. Dr. Dong-Ha Kim, the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Ms. Donna McIlveen, the Rev. John Paeng, Ms. Anne Phillips (convener), and the Rev. Tim Purvis (secretary).

Cindy Stephenson
Convener

Ian Ross-McDonald
General Secretary