

LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY COMMITTEE

MINISTRY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RECEPTION

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. 10–11 in the Terms of Reference for Standing Committees. 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 Presbyterian Church in Canada college. 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.

CASES IN WHICH ACTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED

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

1. Jay (Hao Chieh) Liang, Presbytery of East Toronto
2. Chandra Mannix, Presbytery of Calgary-Mcleod

Ministers of Other Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown

1. Chanil Lee, Presbytery of Westminster
2. Shinhyo Lee, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
3. Arthur Surjadi, Presbytery of Westminster

Ministers of Reformed Churches, Received by Presbyteries as Shown

1. Stefan Botha, Presbytery of Lambton-West Middlesex
2. Tae Wook (Jonathan) Kwon, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
3. Bien Yi-Hsun Chung, Presbytery of Montreal
4. Dae Hee Kim, Presbytery of Western Han-Ca
5. Maryka Potgieter, Presbytery of East Toronto
6. Han Joon (Jonathan) Shin, Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca
7. Marijke Strong, Presbytery of Hamilton

CASES IN PROGRESS

Special Course Candidates

1. Okelo Aballa, Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod
Continuing studies in Theology
2. Frederick Apraku, Presbytery of West Toronto
Continuing studies in Arts
3. Istvan C. Farkas, Presbytery of Hamilton
No information
4. Christina McCarthy, Presbytery of Hamilton
No information
5. Clifford Smith, Presbytery of West Toronto
Continuing studies in Theology

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

1. Chris Clements, Presbytery Waterloo-Wellington
Completed studies
2. Beth Anne Fisher, Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington
Not studying

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

1. Terrie-Lee Hamilton, Presbytery of East Toronto
No information

Certified Candidates for Ordination of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Samina Babar, Presbytery of Brampton
Completed studies

Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Eugênio Anunciação, Brazil
No information
2. Lois Dix, Niagara
Completed studies
3. Brian McGuffin, Presbytery Essex-Kent
Completed studies
4. Lawrence Muvunzi, Zimbabwe
Not studying
5. Jae Woong Park, Presbytery of Paris
No information
6. Cornelius Coenraad (Louis) Scheepers, South Africa
No information

Ministers of Reformed Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Esther Acolatse, USA
No information
2. Madalitso Banda, Zambia
No information
3. Kelli Berkner, Presbytery of Vancouver Island
Completed studies
4. Heidi de Jonge, Presbytery of Kingston
No information
5. Christiaan Wynand du Preez, South Africa
No information
6. Nicole Melara, USA
No information
7. Warren Muller, South Africa
No information
8. Leonard Mwanza, Zambia
No information
9. Zsolt Papp, Romania
No information
10. Kodzo Vouke-Woledzi, Togo
No information
11. Travis Webster, USA
No information

EXPIRED CASES

Recommendation LMA-018 adopted/defeated/amended
That the cases of Sung Yeol Jung and Shun-Chieh (Joseph) Yang be dropped.

CASES TO BE DROPPED

Recommendation LMA-019 adopted/defeated/amended
That the cases of Samira Gebhardt and Moheb Nasr be dropped.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Special Course Candidates

1. John Eldridge Carr
Recommendation LMA-020 adopted/defeated/amended
That, in light of the applicant's previous studies, John Eldridge Carr be assigned four semester courses in Arts and 30 semester courses of theological study at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, completing the Arts courses with a minimum B average prior to enrolling in theology.

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

1. Sumi Jung
Recommendation LMA-021 adopted/defeated/amended
That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Assiniboia to examine Sumi Jung for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by February 7, 2024, and subject to the successful completion of five semester courses of theological education at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with areas of study to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government, preaching, and a supervised theological field

placement in a congregation other than their home congregation; and to complete successfully a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

2. Nehemia Neuhisa

Recommendation LMA-022 adopted/defeated/amended

That, in light of the applicant's previous studies at the Vancouver School of Theology, permission be granted to the Presbytery of Westminster to examine Nehemia Neuhisa for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this church by July 30, 2024, and subject to the successful completion of two semester courses of theological education at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with areas of study to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government; and to complete successfully a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

Note: Nehemia Neuhisa has already completed the history and polity courses, as well as a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

3. Taeryong No

Recommendation lma-023 adopted/defeated/amended

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of Assiniboia to examine Taeryong No for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this Church by February 7, 2024, and subject to the successful completion of five semester courses of theological education at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with areas of study to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government, preaching, and a supervised theological field placement in a congregation other than their home congregation; and to complete successfully a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

4. Christine Park

Recommendation LMA-024 adopted/defeated/amended

That permission be granted to the Presbytery of East Toronto to examine Christine Park for certification for ordination, subject to no competent objections being raised by a presbytery of this Church by July 30, 2024, and subject to the successful completion of 10 semester courses of theological education at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with areas of study to include Reformed Theology, Reformed Worship, Reformed Preaching, Reformed Ministry and Sacraments, a theological field placement in a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada other than their home congregation, Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government; and to complete successfully a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

Certified Candidates for Ordination of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. Carol Hulin

Recommendation LMA-025 adopted/defeated/amended

That Carol Hulin not be declared eligible for reception as a certified candidate for ordination in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Ministers of Other Churches Applying for Eligibility for Reception

1. John Rajendra

Recommendation LMA-026 adopted/defeated/amended

That the Rev. John Rajendra 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 June 30, 2024, and subject to the successful completion of two semester courses in theological education at one of the colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, with areas of study to include Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government; and to complete successfully a workshop on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Policy for Dealing with Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

2. Naggie Sterling

Recommendation LMA-027 adopted/defeated/amended

That the Rev. Naggie Sterling's application for extension of the period for eligibility to be received as a minister in The Presbyterian Church in Canada be granted.

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 Presbyterian Church in Canada history and Presbyterian Church in Canada government, prior to induction. In cases when only this study is assigned, Book of Forms 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. Heather Carlson
2. Jaebok Gu
3. Christopher Joiner
4. Gergely Kása
5. Magdalena Marais
6. Martha McDowell
7. Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah (period of eligibility extended)
8. Karen Petersen Finch
9. Steven Schumm
10. Changwon Seo
11. Han Joon (Jonathan) Shin
12. Maria Szabone Berces

Committee on Education and Reception

Emily Bisset, Sandra Cameron-Evans, Roland De Vries, Kay Diviney (convener), Aubrey Hawton, Joon Ki Kim, Donna McIlveen, Tim Purvis (secretary), Rebecca Simpson, Sarah Travis, Donna Wilkinson.

Donna McIlveen
Convener

Ian Ross-McDonald
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