The Session

The pastor and session are responsible for communicating to all church members what is meant by “the ministry of all the baptized” and helping them discern and fulfill their Christian vocation. A biblically-grounded, theologically sound understanding of Christian vocation integrated into the church’s program will help members recognize opportunities to fulfill their Christian vocation within the context of their secular occupations. Beyond this more general responsibility, it is essential that the session take seriously its role in developing vocational awareness among members of the congregation so as to ensure that committed, knowledgeable persons continue to be involved in the life and mission of the church and the world. They should encourage both individuals exploring a personal sense of call and those persons in whom they see evidence of gifts for service as ministers of the Word and Sacrament to enter into a discernment process.

Developing awareness of the call to ministry of the Word and Sacrament

- Challenge all members to become aware of their Christian vocation.
- Develop and implement thoughtful and creative means by which highly qualified persons may be challenged to consider a vocation in ordered ministry.
- Help potential inquirers get in touch with the presbytery’s committee overseeing preparation for ministry early in their discernment.
- Give high priority to developing and maintaining vital, theologically sound youth programs in harmony with the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions.
- Assure that youth ministry leaders are carefully selected and trained, theologically competent and appropriate role models.