Receiving a call and ordination

- As presbyteries consider their responsibilities to one another regarding candidates who may be considering calls outside their presbytery of care, it may be wise to remember the “Golden Rule”: “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12). If there was information you believe was essential in forming a decision about a person’s “suitability for ordered ministry” (G-2.0603) and “fitness and readiness for a call to ministry requiring ordination” (G-2.0604), then you should share that information with your counterparts within the denomination who must make the same determination.

- Just as the presbytery will establish guidelines for who will provide references about ministers of the Word and Sacrament who may be considered for calls in other presbyteries, so it will need to establish procedures regarding who will provide references and release preparation file information to counterparts in presbyteries of call.

- Presbyteries will need to establish procedures for who is responsible to conduct the “examination for ordination” of candidates receiving calls within their bounds, and whether different procedures will be followed depending on whether or not the candidate was under care of the calling presbytery. The examination for ordination and membership in a presbytery shall cover the candidate’s “Christian faith and views in theology, the Sacraments, and the government of this church” (G-3.0306).

- With ordination and installation one becomes a minister member of the presbytery where the call is served and ceases to be a member of a congregation. Upon receipt of notification that the person has been ordained, the presbytery will remove the individual from its roll of inquirers and candidates (G-2.0610).

*Just as your presbytery will adjust its structures and practices to fit its mission context, so will other presbyteries. What questions will you need to ask in order to coordinate work with inquirers and candidates between presbyteries?