

## **MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS FOR WINNEBAGO PRESBYTERY**

### **Adopted by Presbytery October 10, 1986**

Our Form of Government helps to define and give direction in the establishment of our membership standards for Winnebago Presbytery.

Presbytery is a corporate expression of the church consisting of all the churches and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within a certain district.

--Form of Government G-11.0000

For Winnebago Presbytery, we are 40 congregations in central/northeastern Wisconsin.

As the Lord has set aside through calling and training certain members to perform a special ministry of the Word and has committed to them a variety of work to do, the church through the presbytery calls them to the responsibility and office of ministers of the Word and Sacrament. Such ministers shall be members of a presbytery which shall designate them to such work as may be helpful to the church in mission, in the performance of which they shall be accountable to the presbytery. They shall be responsible for participation in the larger ministry of the church in addition to the duties to which they are called and designated by the presbytery. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament have membership in presbytery by action of the presbytery itself, and maintain their membership in accordance with G-11.0000.

--Form of Government G-6.0200 Ministers and Presbytery

The Form of Government establishes the following criteria for clergy membership in the presbytery.

A presbytery shall determine the ministers of the Word and Sacrament who shall be its continuing members. In making this determination the presbytery shall be guided by written criteria developed by the presbytery for validation of ministries within its bounds. These criteria shall be based upon the description of the nature of ordained office found in G-6.0100 and G-6.0200 and the following standards:

- a. The ministry of continuing members shall be in 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 of this church.
- b. The ministry shall be one that serves others, and enables the ministries of others.
- c. The ministry shall give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word. This will normally require the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent and the completion of the requirements for ordination set forth in G-14.0402.
- d. The ministry shall be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery and to organizations, agencies, and institutions.
- e. The ministry shall include responsible participation in the deliberations and work of the presbytery and in the worship service of a congregation.

--Form of Government G-11.0403 The Presbytery

In addition, Winnebago Presbytery has adopted the following standards for minister members. By these standards, we mean in no way to suggest that a minister member is to neglect his/her role in the leading of a particular congregation, but that there are responsibilities related to presbytery membership.

- a. Attending all meetings of Presbytery
- b. Accepting assignments within the presbytery structure.

- c. Interpreting denominational program and policies to the local congregation.
- d. Encouraging the local church to participate in special presbytery functions and celebrations.
- e. Helping to identify personnel from local congregations to accept assignments for leadership roles within the presbytery and larger church.
- f. Promoting financial support for mission throughout the larger church.

We hope that this begins to inform you about what is expected of minister members of Winnebago Presbytery and that these standards provide both a challenge and a call to faithfulness in the leading of the people of God.