

Member-at-Large Policy Presbytery of Northern Kansas

A member-at-large is a teaching elder who has previously been engaged in a validated ministry, and who now, without intentional abandonment of the exercise of ministry, is no longer engaged in a ministry that complies with all the criteria in G-2.0503a. A teaching elder may be designated a member-at-large because he or she is limited in his or her ability to engage in a ministry fulfilling all of the criteria for a validated ministry due to family responsibilities or other individual circumstances recognized by the presbytery. A member-at-large shall comply with as many of the criteria in G-2.0503a as possible and shall actively participate in the life of a congregation. A member-at-large is entitled to take part in the meetings of the presbytery and to speak, vote, and hold office. The status of member-at-large shall be reviewed annually. G-2.0503b

Each year the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas shall ask those teaching elders who are not currently serving a congregation or on the staff of one of the councils of the church and who have not been designated as Honorably Retired to fill out an annual report. COM shall review the reports of those who are not engaged in a validated ministry to determine if it is appropriate for them to be recognized as Members-at-Large. At a minimum a teaching elder should be an active participant “in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC (USA)” (G-2.0503a (5)) in order to be recognized as a Member-at-Large. Ordinarily, health issues, physical or mental disabilities, or family responsibilities, i.e. caring for younger children, older relatives or relatives with special needs, would be recognized as valid reasons for not pursuing some form of ministry, as would living within the bounds of the presbytery because of the employment of a spouse.

The Committee on Ministry will review these reports. Those who are not involved “in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation,” who do not have a valid reason for not pursuing some form of ministry, and who are not actively seeking other employment opportunities that would allow them to continue their ministry in some way will not be designated as Members-at-Large. Their names will be reported to the Presbytery of Northern Kansas by the Stated Clerk.

If after three years the teaching elder does not meet the criteria for validated ministry or membership-at large, the presbytery shall delete that person’s name from the roll of membership and, upon request of a session, dismiss that person to a congregation. (G-2.0508.)

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN KANSAS
Teaching Elder Response Form

Please attach separate sheets to respond to the following questions.

1. To whom are you directly accountable? To a board of directors? A supervisor? No one? If there is accountability, please explain the nature of the accountability. Also, provide the name of the chair of a board or the person who is your direct supervisor as well as his/her address and phone number.
2. Please provide a description of your ministry, including those to whom you minister and your understanding of specialized ministry as defined by The Book of Order references provided.
3. Does your organization or do you personally carry any personal/professional liability insurance? If so, what kind, and in what amount? If none is carried, please so indicate.
4. Are you currently enrolled in the denominational pension plan for retirement benefits and health insurance? If not, were you ever a member, and at what point did you discontinue service? Please provide information about how you are covered for medical and retirement benefits if other than the Board of Pensions.
5. How are you compensated? What was your income from the ministry you describe above during the past 12 months?
6. In what ways are you currently serving in presbytery, synod and/or General Assembly? In what ways would you be willing to or like to be involved?
7. In what congregation are you involved as a participant?
8. In what specific ways can the Presbytery be supportive of you and your ministry?

Note: Responses should be mailed to the Presbytery Office by February 15th