

## Qualifications and Responsibilities of Readers

In deciding whom to nominate/elect, presbyteries should consider the following qualifications of good readers.

- Serving as a reader for ordination exams is both a demanding and a rewarding task. They must be able to read and evaluate a number of exams each day. They must have access to a computing device with reliable Internet connectivity and be familiar with basic web browser functions on that computer.
- Participants are expected to spend time ahead of the reading period in preparation for the task of reading, generally between 10-20 hours.
- Readers will need to be self-disciplined and able to manage time and commitments effectively so that they meet the expectations of providing at least 10-12 hours of service evaluating exams over the five-day reading period.
- It is important for individuals who are elected to serve as readers to be open to a wide spectrum of theological perspectives, and to be able to assess examinations on their own merit rather than evaluating the exams based on personal theological perspectives.
- In similar fashion, readers must be able to approach evaluating exams with proper cultural sensitivity. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) lives out the creativity of God through a range of racial, ethnic, linguistic, regional, and other forms of cultural diversity. Readers must be able to avoid imposing their own cultural expectations and practices upon the exam responses they evaluate and be open to other cultural expressions within the Reformed tradition.
- Readers must also be able to write clear, thorough, constructive and pastorally sensitive comments in response to the exams that they evaluate.
- It is important for readers to have strong backgrounds in the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition so that they will be able to evaluate how well the exams demonstrate a Reformed understanding and practice of theology, worship, polity, and scriptural interpretation.
- Readers need not be familiar with Greek and Hebrew, but part of the task may include assessing a candidate's ability to work with the original language of a biblical text. Conveners of the reading groups will provide training for those who have little or no knowledge of Greek and Hebrew related to the specific issues within examinations.

Each region elects representatives from their members to serve on the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates (PCC), which prepares the exams and facilitates the reading process. Readers who are elected to serve on the PCC are expected to have some expertise in one or more of the areas of examination (Bible Content and Exegesis, Reformed Theology, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity). They are also expected to develop training resources for the readers. Members of the PCC serve four-year terms.

The quality and integrity of the examination and reading process is in the end dependent upon the quality and effectiveness of those who evaluate the exams. Presbyteries are urged to elect readers whom they would trust to evaluate the exams of their own inquirers and candidates. The people whom you elect as readers will work hard to provide a vital service to the church as a whole and to the future leadership of the church. Most of them, if not all, will find this to be a rich and rewarding experience as well. Thank you for your commitment to this process!