

PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO – COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

GUIDELINES FOR A STATEMENT OF FAITH

All ministers who come into the Presbytery of Chicago whether through the ordination process, receiving a call to serve as pastor/associate pastor of a congregation, to serve in a validated ministry, or transfer from another denomination, will be expected to present a statement of faith when they are examined and received by the presbytery.

The purpose of the statement of faith is for the individual to reflect theologically on specific areas and to state in a concise form his/her faith related to those specific areas. A statement of faith must incorporate an understanding of the Reformed tradition.

Questions to be considered when writing a statement of faith might be: “Where are you in terms of Jesus, the cross, your faith, the Holy Spirit?” and “How do you live out your faith?” Following is a list of suggested topics to be included:

- the nature of God
- the experience of God
- sin and evil
- life and work of Jesus
- Jesus’ humanity and divinity
- christology and atonement
- the Holy Spirit
- the church and its ministry
- the sacraments
- the Bible
- the ministry and mission of the church in the world
- eschatology

The statement of faith will be the basis by which the presbytery conducts its oral examination. Clichés that might distract a reader should be avoided, and language should be chosen for clear understanding because the statement will be read by laity and clergy. The use of gender inclusive language is expected.

When preparing a statement, please type it **single-spaced on one page, number the lines, maintain adequate margins, and be sure your name is added.** The statement will be distributed as submitted, so typing, spelling and grammar are important.

It is important, even with all of these guidelines, that preparation of the statement encourages you to think and struggle with what you believe.