

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Heartland Presbytery

Seminary Guidance Statement

The Heartland Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry understands that a calling to serve the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a Minister of Word and Sacrament is a calling that must be identified by a candidate but also confirmed by the church.

In order to provide the Presbyterian Church with pastors who have received the best possible theological education, who are grounded in the Reformed tradition, and who have an understanding of and commitment to ministry within the Presbyterian Church, the Heartland Presbytery Committee on Ministry (CPM) follows these guidelines in its ministry with those preparing for ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament:

- The Committee strongly encourages all years of theological education to be taken at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- The Committee requires that a period of study of at least one year in residence be taken at a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or to demonstrate to CPM's satisfaction a plan for instruction in Reformed and Presbyterian theology and polity, preferably through a seminary of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- Students enrolled at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries will receive priority in the Committee's disbursement of financial aid.
- Students who take a majority of their education at a non-Presbyterian seminary may be assigned additional requirements by the Committee.

The CPM intends to use this guideline as a general guideline when counseling potential Inquirers and Candidates regarding seminary choice, and when determining what expectations will be for particular Inquirers and Candidates. The Committee will apply the guideline on a seminary by seminary and person by person basis.