JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY

ORDAINING CANDIDATES TO TEMPORARY POSITIONS

Background
The Book of Order, G-2.0701, states the following: *"Ordination to the ordered ministry of teaching elder is an act of the whole church carried out by the presbytery, setting apart a person to ordered ministry. Such a person shall have fulfilled the ordination requirements of the presbytery of care and received the call of God to service to a congregation or other work in the mission of the church that is acceptable to the candidate and to the presbytery of call."*

Clearly, the Book of Order allows a degree of discretion to the presbytery and to the candidate in determining when a candidate for ordination has an appropriate "first call." There are two main questions around which such discernment needs to be exercised.

First, will the presbytery allow persons to be ordained to temporary pastoral offices?

Second, will the presbytery allow a person to be ordained to a first call that is not in a particular church but does conform to the criteria stipulated on page COM-32 regarding "Validation of Ministry"?

As it would clearly be helpful for candidates to know the mind of the presbytery on these questions, The John Knox Presbytery has approved the following policy for the guidance of all concerned.

The Policy
The decision to ordain candidates to any position is always made on a "case by case" basis.

Regarding Ordination to Temporary Pastoral Positions:
Assuming that all other requirements for ordination have been met, the John Knox Presbytery may approve for ordination persons whose first call is to a temporary relationship provided that the employing body agrees to a covenant or contract no less than one year in length.

Regarding Ordination to Ministries Outside a Particular Church:
Assuming that all other requirements for ordination have been met, the John Knox Presbytery may approve for ordination persons whose first call is to a "work in the mission of the church" that meets the criteria for validation of ministry described on page COM–32 of the Manual of Operations.