

## **PREACHING BY CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION**

*One of the many requirements for ordination as a teaching elder (minister of Word and Sacrament) is training in preaching. Generally, this has been left to the seminaries, though candidates may have been afforded opportunities to preach in their home church and elsewhere. Our Presbytery's current practice is to have all candidates preach a sermon before Presbytery, and then answer any questions from the floor before a vote is taken to approve ordination (and perhaps installation).*

*The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has recently agreed that, before it has "certified a candidate ready for examination for ordination, pending a call" (BO: G-6.2.0607), it will have heard that candidate preach a sermon before the committee and offer that person extensive, helpful advice on preaching.*

*It should be remembered that candidates under care of our Presbytery are very well known to all members of the CPM, one of whom is appointed a mentor to make frequent contact with each candidate. The CPM, on behalf of Presbytery, has the time, desire and ability to give all of its candidates considerable constructive evaluation of each person's preaching ability.*

### **The Presbytery therefore agrees that:**

1. Such candidates, certified by its CPM and receiving a call in our Presbytery, need not preach a sermon before Presbytery, though the text of the sermon preached before the CPM will be furnished to Presbytery;
2. Such candidates will instead come before Presbytery, and:
  - a. state their reasons for seeking ordination
  - b. speak briefly to some theological question posed by the CPM (such as, "Describe some Christian Doctrine that you have found particularly meaningful in your preparation for the ministry.")
  - c. Answer any questions from the floor (before disappearing while the Presbytery debates and votes).

It is understood that other candidates to be approved for ordination coming from another Presbytery will - following our Presbytery's current procedure - preach a sermon before Presbytery, as well as answer any questions from the floor.

APPROVED 4/24/2012  
Presbytery Meeting at Montreat