

#### **4. CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS**

Presbytery of St. Augustine

A Christian Educator, sometimes called a Director of Christian Education, is a trained and/or experienced church professional, called by God to a profession of significant responsibility in the church. The following shall apply to all Certified Christian Educators employed full time and persons currently seeking certification and to their employing churches or church related agencies.

##### **A. Calling Process for Churches Seeking Full Time Certified Educators or Educators in the Process of Certification**

Persons seeking positions as Certified Christian Educators shall complete and place on file with the presbytery the Personal Information Form. Every church or church related agency seeking to call a Certified Christian Educator shall notify the Member Preparation and Call Commission. Thereupon, a Church Vacancy Consultant will be appointed to work with the church or church related agency search committee, and the Education Vacancy Information Form will be completed. No person shall be called to work in a particular church or church related agency until the Member Preparation and Call Commission has granted approval.

##### **B. Recognition of Certified Christian Educators**

The Member Preparation and Call Commission will include in its report to presbytery the recognition of Certified Christian Educators within the bounds who have recently completed the certification process or of Certified Educators moving into the Presbytery of St. Augustine. The Educator will present to the Presbytery a brief statement of faith and work history.

Every calling session shall recognize the Certified Christian Educator with an appropriate installation ceremony at which a representative of the Member Preparation and Call Commission shall be present. This public worship service shall be coordinated with the representative of the Member Preparation and Call Commission.

##### **C. Status of Certified Christian Educators within the Presbytery of St. Augustine**

A Certified Christian Educator is one who has complied with the procedures outlined above and who is now engaged in Christian Education in a particular church or ministry validated by this presbytery, or who is participating in the life and work of this presbytery, or who is honorably retired. A Certified Christian Educator is granted the privilege of the floor of the presbytery.

The Member Preparation and Call Commission will make an annual report to the presbytery on the status of Certified Christian Educators within the bounds of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.

##### **D. Presbytery Meetings**

All Certified Christian Educators are expected to attend meetings of the Presbytery of St. Augustine and to participate in the life and work of the presbytery.

##### **E. Oversight and Support**

The Leadership Development and Care Committee will provide events for educators and heads of staff for the opportunity to clarify mutual expectations, to enhance communication, and to develop effective team ministries.

The Member Preparation and Call Commission will employ the same procedures and guidelines established for ordained/installed clergy regarding the Certified Christian Educator's inclusion with session visits and exit interviews. The Leadership Development and Care Committee will provide newly employed Certified Christian Educators a mentor. The Leadership Development and Care Committee will provide an annual continuing education event for Certified Christian Educators. The Certified Christian Educator will have access to the Leadership Development and Care Committee for support, advice, resolution of difficulties, and pastoral care. (G-11.0503)

##### **F. Guidelines for Compensation and Benefits**

The compensation standards recommended by the Church Vocations Ministry Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be used to help determine the compensation and benefits for Certified Christian Educators.

The minimum salary terms of the Presbytery of St. Augustine established for clergy shall be followed when calling a Certified Christian Educator.

**G. Resolution of Difficulties**

No church shall dismiss a Certified Christian Educator from its employment without first consulting with the Member Preparation and Call Commission. Any Certified Christian Educator with a grievance against his/her employer is encouraged to first consult with the moderator and session and/or personnel committee in an attempt to resolve the problem, but may not be denied the opportunity to consult with and seek advice and counsel from the Member Preparation and Call Commission in compliance with G-14.0704 of the Book of Order.

**H. Non-Certified Christian Educators**

While the above guidelines relate to Certified Christian Educators, the Member Preparation and Call Commission encourages sessions to apply the same guidelines to non-certified Christian Educators. Non-Certified Christian Educators are encouraged to complete educational requirements and to seek certification under the process provided for such certification.

Adopted 1 May 1990  
Amended 14 July 2007  
Amended 1 January 2018

\*\*\*\*\*