

In 2012, the Ministerial Vocation Committee (MVC) of the General Assembly conducted a survey of Candidates and Advisors that had recently completed the ordination process in order to determine best practices. As a result of that survey, the MVC concluded that Presbyteries/Ministerial Committees/Care of Candidate Committees would be well served to communicate to both Candidates and Advisors the following expectations and be diligent in reviewing the assigned efforts:

1. Together, Candidates and Advisors should ascertain the M.Div. curriculum of the seminary in which the Candidate is studying and compare it with the EPC educational requirements to ensure the Candidate is aware of any EPC-specific requirements beyond the degree requirements in their seminary. Both Candidate and Advisor should be familiar with the “Reformed Reading List” (available in the Procedural Manual and on the EPC website under “Resources”, then “Ministry Resources”, then “Written Ordination Exam Study Guide”) and the Candidate is encouraged to study those resources in preparation for ordination and the required exams – especially if the seminary does not include courses in or based on Reformed theology.

2. It is the responsibility of the Candidate to connect with the Advisor at least once a quarter (preferably once a month), and in person whenever possible.

3. The Candidate should initiate communication with their Advisor regarding any questions or concerns in the following required areas of the ordination process:

- a. Preparation for written and oral examinations for ordination.
- b. Psychological evaluations.
- c. Medical exam.
- d. Background check.
- e. Personal Information Form.

4. The Candidate should articulate/clarify their theological convictions with their Advisor to determine if there are any areas that need to be studied further or be more effectively conveyed.

5. The Candidate is encouraged to communicate with their Advisor any issues in faith and/or in life the Candidate may be facing. The Advisor may choose to speak to this directly or refer to the candidate’s Pastor(s) or other appropriate professional resources:

- a. Marriage and family issues.
- b. Faith and life issues (spiritual health, devotional life).
- c. Financial issues.
- d. Emotional health.
- e. Physical health.
- f. Character issues.
- g. Leadership issues.

6. The Candidate should communicate with their Advisor any changes in their senses of call.

7. The Candidate should communicate with their Advisor the Candidate’s thoughts, challenges, and insights regarding their current ministry/field experience.

8. The Candidate, along with their Advisor, will identify the process the EPC has outlined of finding a call.

9. The Candidate should initiate and submit, in conjunction with the Advisor, an annual written report to the Presbytery's MCC concerning the substance and progress of their meetings.

The report should include the following:

- a. The specific dates and time spent together as Candidate and Advisor.
- b. Ways in which communication has been maintained (e.g., in person, video conferencing, email, etc.).
- c. Ways in which the Candidate has been involved in the worship and work of a local church.
- d. The Candidate should annually provide to the Advisor a narrative of personal, spiritual, and academic progress, growth in professional skills, and financial needs.