



A global movement of
evangelistic presbyterians

46-12 (to the floor)

From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Government* 11-2.G

Current Language: G. 11-2.G	Proposed Language: G.11-2.G <i>additions, in bold italics, deletions</i>
<p>11-2.G A Candidate shall pursue a course of study that leads to a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary approved by the Presbytery and such other standards as may be determined by Acts of the General Assembly. Academic work that is equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree may be completed by those means designed for Candidates under extraordinary status (G.11-2I).</p> <p>11-2.H Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination. A Candidate, for reasons acceptable to the Presbytery, may request transfer to another Presbytery. The Candidate’s membership must also be transferred to an EPC congregation within that Presbytery.</p> <p>11-2.I Currently descending from GA45 to STRIKE] A Presbytery, for reasons it judges adequate, may receive a Candidate under extraordinary circumstances for whom it may waive part or all of the total educational requirements for ordination. This action requires a two-thirds vote by the Presbytery. When such a Candidate is received, it is appropriate to assign courses of independent study or study under some appropriate person.</p>	<p>11-2.G A Candidate shall pursue a course of study that leads to a <i>graduate theological</i> Master of Divinity degree from an accredited <i>institution</i> seminary approved by the Presbytery and such other <i>requirements</i> standards as may be determined by Acts of the General Assembly. Academic work that is equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree may be completed by those means designed for Candidates under extraordinary status (G.11-2I).</p> <p><i>11-2.H The Candidate shall present evidence of satisfactory completion of the Criteria for Ordination Requirements and Education to the Presbytery. This evidence shall include:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Graduate coursework substantiated by a transcript</i> 2. <i>Participation in the EPC candidate assessment</i> 3. <i>Demonstration of pastoral competencies</i> <p>11-2.H I Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination. A Candidate, for reasons acceptable to the Presbytery, may request transfer to another Presbytery. The Candidate’s membership must also be transferred to an EPC congregation within that Presbytery.</p> <p>11-2.I J [Currently descending from GA45 to AMEND] A Candidate from another Reformed denomination who has been under care for at least one year in that denomination, has met EPC educational requirements for ordination, and is pursuing a call from an EPC congregation shall be examined in the manner prescribed in G.12-2. Any Candidates from outside the Reformed Tradition follow the procedures of G.11-2.</p>



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Rationale: Due to changes in the accreditation of the Masters of Divinity degree over the years, the degree is no longer standard among seminaries. Some seminaries still maintain the traditional 90+ credit hour degree while others have reduced the required credit hours to the minimum 72+ credit hour threshold. This results in a significant variance when it comes to the preparation and training of our Candidates. Furthermore, we have many Candidates who have already achieved a graduate level theological degree and simply need to add a few more classes rather than pursue a different degree. Additionally, we recognize the need for a uniform standard which is why we are proposing a standard “Criteria for Ordination Requirements and Education” that all Candidates must meet. The new criteria will include 72 hours of transcribed, graduate level coursework, including original languages. It will also include a new assessment process for Candidates modeled after our current church planter and world outreach worker assessments. Finally, it will include some kind of demonstration of pastoral competencies and skills in a local ministry context.

www.epconnect.org/2026AIC-Ordination