

Section 11 - Christian Education

Policy Number: 11.01

Effective Date: 10/19/14

1. Title: Teacher Approval Procedures

2. Purpose:

To define the qualifying characteristics that are required for an individual to serve in the leadership position of a teacher within the Discipleship Ministry, and to establish a procedure to confirm that each teacher candidate satisfies these qualifications.

3. Policy:

Each teacher candidate is expected to be a faithful member of the church, and accept the roll of responsible involvement in the ministry of the church. The teacher candidate is expected to agree with the items listed below in this policy section. This agreement will be confirmed by signature of the Teacher Covenant Document Form, attached as Appendix A. This form will also be signed by the Associate Pastor.

3.1 Standards of a Faithful Church Member:

- Proclaims the Good News
- Takes part in the common life and worship of the church
- Prays and studies Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church
- Supports the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents
- Participates in the governing responsibilities of the church
- Demonstrates a new quality of life within and through the church
- Responds to God's activity in the world through service to others
- Lives responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life
- Works in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment

3.2 Rank of Spiritual Authorities:

- Primary Authority: Jesus Christ, the Living Word
- Secondary Authority: The Bible, the Written Word, as revealed through the Holy Spirit.
- Tertiary Authority: The essential tenets of the Reformed Faith, as found in our Book of Confessions.
- Fourth Level Authority: The combined testimony and experience of the Church, especially as determined by actions and statements of governing bodies.
- Lowest Level Authority: The private understanding and personal experience of the individual Christian.

Section 11 - Christian Education

Policy Number: 11.01

Effective Date: 10/19/14

3.3 Ten Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith

- The Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- The Incarnation of Jesus Christ: His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension
- Justification by grace alone through faith alone
- Scripture alone is the Word of God
- The Sovereignty of God
- Election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation
- God's involvement in the covenant community life, marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the Word of God
- Faithful stewardship of our resources and the earth
- Recognition of the human tendency to sin
- Commitment to justice and obedience

3.4 Other Requirements:

- Teachers of children and youth must successfully pass a background check, which will be conducted by church personnel every two years. In certain circumstances, teachers of adults may be checked also.
- Teacher candidates must be legal residents of the United States.

4. Definitions:

- Covenant: A written agreement under signature by two or more parties.

5. References:

- The *Book of Confessions* Section 10.1 – 10.6
- Hassall, Harry S., *Presbyterianism's Unique Gift*, Brentwood, Tennessee, Middle Way Ministries, 1999
- OPS 04.04 Discipleship Ministry
- OPS 04.02 Children's Ministry
- OPS 04.10 Youth Ministry
- OPS 11.02 Policy on Guest Teachers
- OPS 11.03 Curriculum Approval
- OPS 11.04 Adult Sunday School / WNL / Small Groups
- OPS 11.11 Leader Training
- Appendix A: Teacher Covenant Document Form

Section 11 - Christian Education

Policy Number: 11.01

Effective Date: 10/19/14

6. Applicability:

These Teacher Approval Procedures shall apply to those teaching Sunday School classes, Wednesday Night Live and all other small groups that meet on the church campus, Sunday and Wednesday night youth activities, youth mission trips, and confirmation classes. These procedures are equally applicable to those teaching adults, youth, or children.

7. Procedures:

1. The Teacher Candidate shall obtain from the Church Office a copy of the Teacher Covenant Document Form (F-110101).
2. The Teacher Candidate shall read the said form and discuss any questions with the Associate Pastor.
3. The Teacher Candidate shall sign the said form only if she/he feel they are in complete agreement with its requirements.
4. The Teacher Candidate shall give the signed form to the Associate Pastor for his signature.
5. The Associate Pastor shall approve the Teacher Candidate by signing the said form.
6. The Associate Pastor shall give the original signed copy to the Church Administrator for filing in the Church Records, a copy to the now approved Teacher, and a copy to the Chair of the Discipleship Committee.

8. Review Schedule: The review date for determining if a revision of this OPS is necessary is the anniversary of the effective date.

9. Approval: Session approved this OPS on the above effective date.

Section 11 - Christian Education

Policy Number: 11.01

Effective Date: 10/19/14

Appendix A
Teacher Covenant Document Form

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe

Recognizing the high privilege that is mine to serve the Lord as a teacher, and trusting in the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I earnestly pledge myself to this covenant.

I will faithfully hold to the standards expected of a church member, and accept the role of responsible involvement in the ministry of the church.

I agree with the following rank of spiritual authorities:

1. Jesus Christ
2. The Bible
3. The Ten Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith
4. The Combined Testimony and Experience of the Church
5. The Private Understanding and Personal Experience of the Individual Christian

I am willing to truthfully submit to a background check conducted by church personnel every two years.

Further, I will be faithful in attendance, and make it a habit to be present early to welcome each student as they arrive. If at any time I am unable to teach my class, I understand that I am responsible to find a qualified substitute.

I will pray for each member of my class on a regular basis.

I will carefully prepare my lessons to the best of my ability.

I will regularly attend and urge all members of my class to be present at the church worship services.

I will participate in teacher training sessions as necessary.

With God's help, I will seek to do my best in fulfilling this covenant.

Signature of Teacher Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Associate Pastor: _____ Date: _____