

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOP ARTICLE XII "RECOGNITION OF ORDAINED MINISTERS"  
From the Knox Presbytery Committee Assigned to Study the Doctrinal and Polity Questions  
Related To Pastor Doug Jones  
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BOOK OF PROCEDURES

Article XII Recognition of Ordained Ministers

1. Each Presiding Minister of Presbytery shall establish and maintain a list of the CREC ministers (pastors) in their presbytery.
2. The purpose of the lists of CREC ministers is simply to clarify who is formally recognized as a lawfully ordained minister of the gospel in the CREC. It does not mean that the man is a member of presbytery or council, or a delegate to presbytery or council. Removing a man's credentials from such a register is not equivalent to defrocking, which can only be done in the CREC at the local church level.
3. The lists shall consist of the names of: (a) ordained pastors recorded in the church reports adopted by presbytery, (b) other ministerial changes that take place at presbytery, and (c) any changes of pastoral status registered in writing with the Presiding Minister between the annual presbytery meetings. To this end:
  - a. Each church shall provide a written report to presbytery at the appointed yearly meeting which includes the names of each of the ordained pastors, as well as any ordained pastor without call that is recognized by that church.
  - b. The Presiding Minister of presbytery shall automatically add or remove from the list of recognized ordained men those changes which take place at presbytery. This includes but is not limited to:
    - i. a previously ordained man, who has had his ordination formally recognized by presbytery upon entering the CREC along with his church.
    - ii. any church removed from the CREC will have the names of their ordained officers removed from the list.
  - c. A church shall register all changes of pastoral status between presbytery meetings with the Presiding Minister of the presbytery. This includes but is not limited to:
    - i. any man who sat for a CREC ordination exam and was recommended by the examination committee, ordained by his local CREC church, and installed as a minister.
    - ii. any previously ordained man, who was called by a CREC member church to be her minister, and is duly installed.

- iii. any minister who was defrocked.
  - iv. any minister without call who is a member of a local CREC church that the local church wants to recognize as a lawfully ordained minister.
4. Ministers without call whose ordinations are maintained by the CREC must be members of a CREC church.
- a. A church, before receiving an ordained (but uninstalled) minister into membership, is under obligation to either approve or not approve the minister's credentials. The normal expectation is that a church will approve of a minister's credentials.
    - i. In the case that a minister's credentials are not approved the minister may:
      - 1. pursue membership in another local church, or
      - 2. submit to membership and so be released from his ministerial status by demitting (resigning) his office.
    - ii. If a minister's credentials are approved the local church must:
      - 1. indicate the minister's status to the Minister of Presbytery,
      - 2. approve or not approve any ministerial activity (e.g., performing baptisms, marriages, publishing, etc.), and
      - 3. take initiative in any proceedings of discipline leading to restoration or defrocking if the minister's doctrine or life is reproachable.
  - b. If a CREC minister does not receive a call within three years of having his "minister without call" status first recognized, he shall be declared released from his ministerial status by the church that holds his credentials unless specific permission is requested by the church and received from presbytery. This permission must be sought and granted on an annual basis.
5. Ministers under the authority of another church or presbytery who are without call and desire to become members of a CREC church while remaining concurrently under the authority of another body, must obtain approval by presbytery according the procedure of the Constitution II.B.
6. Ministers who are at least 50 years old and who have served in one or more CREC churches for at least 10 years are eligible to retire as a minister. The provisions of paragraph 4 apply to retired ministers, except that, once their retired status is reported and approved by presbytery via adoption, a failure to subsequently report and approve their retired status shall not result in a loss of their retired ministerial status. The provisions of subparagraph 4. b. do not apply to retired ministers.

7. Upon request, the Presiding Minister may issue a letter to an inquiring body stating that the minister in question has been formally recognized by the CREC as a lawfully ordained minister of the gospel.