Steps
for men
considering
the gospel
ministry
in the
Orthodox
Presbyterian
Church

STEP

STEP 1

**Become ORDAINED and INSTALLED via:** 

- a) satisfactory completion of academic requirements, including an adequate course of study in a theological seminary equivalent to that required for a regular three-year theological degree (FG 23.3);
- b) examinations by presbytery, as outlined in FG 23.6;
- c) and an official service of ordination and installation, conducted by presbytery (FG 23.7-10).

Request presbytery to approve the call and grant permission to accept it (FG 22.12.d). When so approved and granted, express desire to accept the call, ordinarily within three weeks (FG 22.14).

Receive a call to ministerial service by a congregation, a presbytery, or the general assembly (FG 22.1).

Actively seek a call to a specific ministerial task (FG 21.1, 11).

Make trial of qualifications and service for the edification of the church, preferably through an approved year-long internship program.

Become LICENSED (FG 21.4-5) via:

STEP 7

STEP 6

STEP 5

STEP 9

- a) examinations by presbytery in the English Bible, ecclesiastical history, theology, and the original languages of the Scriptures;
- b) testimonials of piety, exemplary life, and personal zeal for and experience in presenting the gospel to others; and
- preparation of a sermon, an essay on a theological theme, and an exegesis of a Hebrew or Greek text of Scripture.
- a) Receive a B.A. degree, or its academic equivalent, from a college or university of reputable academic standing.
- b) Complete an adequate course of study lasting at least a year and a half in a theological seminary (FG 21.3)

Be taken UNDER CARE OF A PRESBYTERY via:

- a) a written recommendation from the session of the local congregation where you are a member, and
- b) an examination by presbytery respecting your Christian faith, life, service, and the motives influencing you to desire the gospel ministry (FG 21.2).

Note: this step can be taken at any time before, during, or after college or seminary.

- a) Cultivate a faithful walk with the Lord—in secret, in your family, and in your church.
- b) Become an actively serving communicant member in an OPC congregation (FG 21.2).
- c) Read and begin applying the principles of *Called to The Ministry* by Edmund P. Clowney.
- d) Tell your pastor and session of your aspiration, and ask for opportunities to test your gifts and graces.

(FG = The OPC Form of Government, part of the OPC Book of Church Order)

Committee on Christian Education
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
607 N. Easton Rd., Bldg. E
Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539
215/830-0900 olinger.1@opc.org