

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

The Committee on Christian Education Subcommittee on Ministerial Training

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The internship program of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church is an important—and necessary—ministry in the church. This program provides opportunities for training, testing, and being further prepared for the Gospel ministry. It provides an important opportunity for you to be exposed to the multifaceted work of that ministry in the local Church.

Interns are men who sense a call to the Gospel ministry and who are wise enough to recognize that they need two things to verify that call: the preparation of hands-on experience and the confirmation by the church. Under experienced pastors and sessions, they receive personal guidance toward the spiritual and practical maturity which are essential for the call to which they aspire. The church becomes their classroom and the leadership and members their teachers as they test and develop their gifts for ministry. Where else but in the setting of a church can men be tried and trained with competent theological and practical direction in order to serve in the church?

The Committee on Christian Education of the OPC assists in bringing churches and interns together. Toward that end, the Director of the Intern Program interviews seminary students and forwards approved applications to participating churches. Each participating church receives copies of applications from a number of candidates and chooses the candidate they believe is the best match for them.

A **summer internship** is twelve weeks of intensive exposure to the pastoral ministry. It is designed to give seminarians a taste of the ministry by putting them to work in a church and testing their gifts and their calling by God. If they are members of the OPC or the PCA, they are expected ordinarily to be under the care of a presbytery before they commence a summer internship.

A **yearlong internship** is normally the final phase of preparation for entering the ordained ministry. It is designed to be the practical complement of a seminary education and is usually done after the completion of a degree program. An applicant must apply to a presbytery of the OPC for licensure no later than the commencement of a yearlong internship with a view to his being licensed at least by the mid-point of the internship.

If you are interested in serving as a ministerial intern for a summer or a year, please complete the application form and return it to the Director of the Intern Program. He will need to interview you personally to complete the process.

Policies regulating internships include the following:

- (a) The Committee will not fund second summer internships for men not committed to the OPC.
- (b) OPC and PCA men contemplating summer internships are required ordinarily to be under care of a presbytery.
- (c) Yearlong interns must be members of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
- (d) Churches participating in the internship program, but which do not receive funding, are asked to assist us by submitting evaluations of interns.
- (e) The Intern Evaluation form will include “preaching” as a separate category.
- (f) Yearlong interns must apply to a presbytery of the OPC for licensure no later than the commencement of the internship with a view to his being licensed at least by the mid-point of the internship.
- (g) Churches are strongly encouraged to incorporate enrolment in a MTI course in the plan for the internship and the mentoring pastor should consider the advisability of enrolling in an MTI course together with his intern.