

BCO 13-5. Receiving an Ordained Minister without a Call

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Question: May a Presbytery receive into its membership an ordained minister who is not being called to a definite work within its bounds?

Answer: Yes, a Presbytery may receive into its membership an ordained minister who is not being called to a definite work within its bounds.

Grounds:

- *BCO* 13-5 states
13-5. Ordinarily, [emphasis added] only a minister who receives a call to a definite ecclesiastical work within the bounds of a particular Presbytery may be received as a member of that Presbytery except in cases where the minister is already honorably retired, **or in those cases deemed necessary by the Presbytery**, [emphasis added] subject to the review of the General Assembly. In such cases deemed necessary, which may include the case of a minister without call whose circumstances appear to require relocation within the bounds of that Presbytery, the time allotment of *BCO* 13-2 shall be counted from the day the minister was first continued on the roll without call in any Presbytery.
- *Usually*, a Presbytery receives a minister into its membership on the basis of his receiving a call to a definite ecclesiastical work within its bounds. But *BCO* 13-2 begins with the word, “ordinarily” which allows the Presbytery to use its discretion.
- Moreover, additional discretion is given the Presbytery by the phrase, “or in those cases deemed necessary by the Presbytery.”
- Since the conjunction “or” is used with reference to the case’s being deemed necessary by the Presbytery, it is not an additional requirement, but an alternative requirement.

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