

In 2021, the Commission on Ministry of Pittsburgh Presbytery adopted a new set of requirements for ethical training. The new policy requires that all members of Pittsburgh Presbytery who are active in ministry complete the current ethical training seminary within their first two years as a member of the Presbytery, a complete one ethical training elective every two years thereafter.

For the purpose of this policy, “actively engaged in ministry within Pittsburgh Presbytery” is defined as:

- Teaching elders currently serving in a pastoral position within a congregation.
- Commissioned Pastors and Certified Christian Educators currently serving within a congregation.
- Teaching elders serving in a validated ministry role.
- All teaching elders participating in pastoral services including: pulpit supply, moderating sessions, occasional pastoral care, teaching within a congregation and/or serving as a Parish Associate.

Failure to comply with this policy will have the following consequences:

- It will be reported as part of any reference check to another Presbytery and/or to a COM Clearance Committee.
- A continued pattern of non-compliance with this policy will result in COM requesting the Stated Clerk place a notation on the minister’s file with the Office of the General Assembly. This notation will be removed when the requirements are completed.

In addition to the standard ethical training, COM hopes to offer two electives per year that will satisfy the requirements. Members may also submit an offering of their own choosing for approval by COM to satisfy this requirement.

This fall, there will be two electives offered that will satisfy this requirement.

- On October 6th, we will be offering Boundaries for Working with Children and Youth, led by Ed Sutter (Director of Youth Ministry and Family Counseling at Westminster Presbyterian Church). You can register for this event online (<https://form.jotform.com/COMPgh/boundaries-children-and-youth>)
- We are finalizing details for a second elective on November 9th and those will be published in the Presbytery News in the next few weeks.

If you have further questions you can contact Cathy Nelson (cnelson@pghpresbytery.org). The full policy can be found on our website