

**Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
PC(USA) Ordination Exams 2019**

June 6, 2019

Each year presbyteries are required to submit to General Assembly the names of persons willing to read ordination exams. As part of the Northeast Region, Cayuga-Syracuse readers will be evaluating exams the week of **October 7-11, 2019** and we have been asked to provide one (1) ruling elder, one (1) teaching elder, and one (1) alternate reader. The Leadership Team will appoint exam readers at its meeting on July 22, 2019.

Training via the web is offered; it includes an introductory video and thorough discussion of the requirements for evaluating the exams and writing up comments. The exams have different sections; each reader will read only the answers of one section, so readers can concentrate on, say, theology or polity, worship and sacraments and so on. To get a good overview of the exams, see <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/prep4min/standard-ordination-exams/>

The training resources are thorough, and there is also a hotline to use when reading the exams if the reader has questions. One would expect to spend several hours reviewing the training resources, and one should plan to spend a good number of hours reading exams during the week allocated for evaluation. Still, the task is more interesting than onerous. Having some experience in critical analysis of written texts makes the work easier. It's not a simple matter to look at an answer and say, "This won't do." If one is not used to finding the strengths and weaknesses in a text, it can feel rather cruel to judge someone's effort as inadequate. It may well be, of course, that all the answers one gets to read are good, and, although that was not my experience, it does always give one a good feeling to know that pastors are well prepared to go out into the community and lead their sheep!

Elder Linda Van Buskirk
Leadership Team Class of 2020
2018 Exam Reader