

# **PRESBYTERY MEETING PROCEDURE FOR ORAL PARTS OF TRIAL**

Instructions to the Candidate

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Pittsburgh Presbytery

1. The Chair of CPM (or the person appointed to present the CPM report) will invite a member of your Care Team or another commissioner to come forward and introduce you.

**Time allotment: 2 minutes**

2. You will then be asked to **briefly** introduce yourself. Biographical statements must be 150 words or less (please see sample below). This is to be a brief introduction, so please stick to the main points. An extended introduction will not cause commissioners to view you more favorably. Keep it short and to the point!
3. Once you have finished your introduction, you may begin reading your statement of faith.
4. Once you have finished reading, the Moderator will invite commissioners to ask you questions.
  - a. While questions are typically related to your Statement of Faith, you should be prepared to answer questions about your biographical statement, sense of call, motivations for seeking ministry, etc.
  - b. The moderator does have the right to rule a question out of order if they deem it to be so.
5. When there are no further questions from the floor, a motion will be made for your Oral Parts of Trial to be sustained. You and your Care Team representative will be escorted out of the room. While you are out of the room, the body will discuss the motion to approve your ordination and vote. When the vote is completed, you will be invited back into the room and be informed of the result.

**TOTAL time allotment: 15 minutes**

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*Sample biographical statement (what Brian would have said for his oral parts of trial):*

Good afternoon! My name is Brian Wallace. I was born in upstate New York and attended Ogden Presbyterian Church near Rochester, NY. In 1999, I came to Western Pennsylvania to attend Grove City College and it was during my time in college that I began to sense God was calling me to ministry. I completed my Physics and Computer Science degree and continued my studies at Pittsburgh Seminary, where I graduated in 2006. For me, central to my sense of call is to nurture faith in the lives of teenagers, so I am excited today to stand before you, if the way be clear, to serve as an Associate for Youth at Hampton Presbyterian Church.

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*Your biographical statement should fit in the following box:*