

2. The Moderator is appointed annually, and must be a minister.\* In the absence of the Moderator, his predecessor in the chair presides, and failing him, the oldest minister present.

3. Three members, of whom at least two must be ministers, are necessary to form a quorum and constitute a meeting of the Court.

4. The business of a Presbytery is to receive and dispose of all matters coming up from the Sessions within its bounds; to transmit overtures or other documents addressed to the Synod; to grant supplies of religious ordinances to vacant congregations and mission stations, and to congregations in the event of the illness or absence of their ministers; to erect new congregations, or alter the bounds of existing ones; to examine students, and on finding them duly qualified, to grant them certificates to enable them to enter the Divinity hall, or to return to it; to superintend the education of, and to try, such students and license them (when found qualified) to preach the gospel; to grant moderations in calls to vacant congregations; to dispose of such calls; to try the qualifications of candidates for the ministry, and to ordain and induct them to the pastoral office; to exercise discipline over all ministers and licentiates of the church within its bounds; to receive demissions and loose ministers from their charges; to revise the Records of the Sessions within its bounds, and generally to exercise a spiritual jurisdiction over all the ministers, licentiates, sessions and congregations within its bounds.

5. When application is made to a Presbytery on behalf of a student desiring license, he must be recommended by one or more of the clerical members personally acquainted with him for a period of at least six months. The Presbytery must be satisfied that he has completed his twenty-first year, unless special permission has been obtained from the Supreme Court to proceed in the case of one younger. It must also have received certificates from the Professors under whom he has studied, bearing evidence of his having passed through the whole course of study required by law, and delivered the appointed trial discourses. It must further have satisfactory evidence of his good conduct and piety. If the Presbytery is satisfied in these respects, it issues Circular Letters to the other Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, intimating its intention, with the leave of the Synod, to take such student on public probationary trials for license, which letters must be issued at least two calendar months before the meeting of the Synod.

6. A student is entitled to receive interim certificates during the currency of the last session of his Divinity course, if necessary, so that the requirements of the last section may be complied with; but in this case, he shall, at the close of the session, forward to the Presbytery final certificates, which must be satisfactory; otherwise the Presbytery cannot proceed further than the steps already detailed.

7. The Presbytery, applying to the Synod for leave to take a student on trials for license, transmits an Extract Minute of its action in the matter, together with all certificates and documents furnished to it, and which bear on the application. Should it appear to the Presbytery that it is not desirable to delay the application of a student for license on account of some slight defect or informality in his certificates or other papers, the Presbytery may forward the application, but it must point out in its Extract Minutes the defect or informality, with such explanations as it may be able to make.

\* The order of the Roll is usually followed in the appointment of Moderator, but, as in the case of inexperienced ministers, it is sometimes advisable to elect a Moderator without regard to this practice.