

## *Standard Ordination Examinations PC(USA)*

The Standard Ordination Examinations are given twice each year to assess students' knowledge in Bible Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity. The *Book of Order* stipulates that these four examinations may be taken by inquirers or candidates after completion of two full years of theological education and shall only be taken upon approval by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Consisting of essay type questions, the exams are assembled by the Office of Examination Services at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, proctored by an official at each theological institution, and read (or graded) by representatives from each presbytery. The exams are administered just prior to the beginning of each semester – typically this will be the final weekends of August and January.

It is the candidate's responsibility to register for the exams. Application forms are available from your Committee on Preparation for Ministry or online at <http://www.pcusa.org/exams/forms.htm>.

Notebooks on reserve in the San Anselmo branch of the GTU library contain material which will assist you in preparing to take the Standard Ordination Exams. These include general tips on how to prepare for the exams and bibliographies as well as copies of exams (both successful and unsuccessful) from the past five years. Use old tests and instruction sheets to study. Familiarity with the form and content of the tests will ease your anxiety when facing new questions.

You should also be thoroughly familiar with the constitution of the PC(USA) – both the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions*. You may also prepare by reviewing introductory texts on reformed theology (see bibliographies in the ORDs binders). Talking with others who have written the exams in the past is also a helpful way to learn of resources and techniques that might be useful to you as you prepare.