Commissioned Gospel Worker

Explanation

What is a Commissioned Gospel Worker?

Is a male who has completed a 3 year full-time equivalent theological studies from an approved college. They have completed the approved course of study on Westminster Confession of Faith, PCNSW Polity and Orientation to PCNSW history and culture maintained by Ministry and Mission. They have completed the process to be accredited by Ministry and Mission and have been appointed and commissioned by Presbytery to a position.

Who are they Accountable to?

A CGW is accountable to the Presbytery. Their contract is with the local Presbytery.

What is their Remuneration?

A CGW has a specific remuneration package as set out by the Assembly through Ministry and Mission. This package is at a level in between an Ordained Minister and a Pastoral Assistant and includes travel, accommodation and technology fringe benefits. It can be pro-rated if the appointment is not fulltime.

Are they able to be part of the Church Courts?

A CGW can be a part of the courts of the church with rights equivalent to an associate member once they are appointed to a position. If they are ordained as and elder and inducted into the local session, then the Presbytery grants them a seat on Presbytery which means they will also have a seat at NSW Assembly. The congregation may commission another elder to the Presbytery and Assembly as well as the CGW. A CGW may also be granted sacrament and marriage privileges within the sphere of their appointment.

What are the benefits of being a CGW?

It is recognised as a significant role with in the PCNSW.

It carries with it a responsibility to seek to serve Jesus in this specific role in line with PCNSW.

It identifies that the person has completed a significant amount of study and has been through a rigorous process to be accredited and appointed. This can give confidence to a local congregation that this person has been tested and approved.

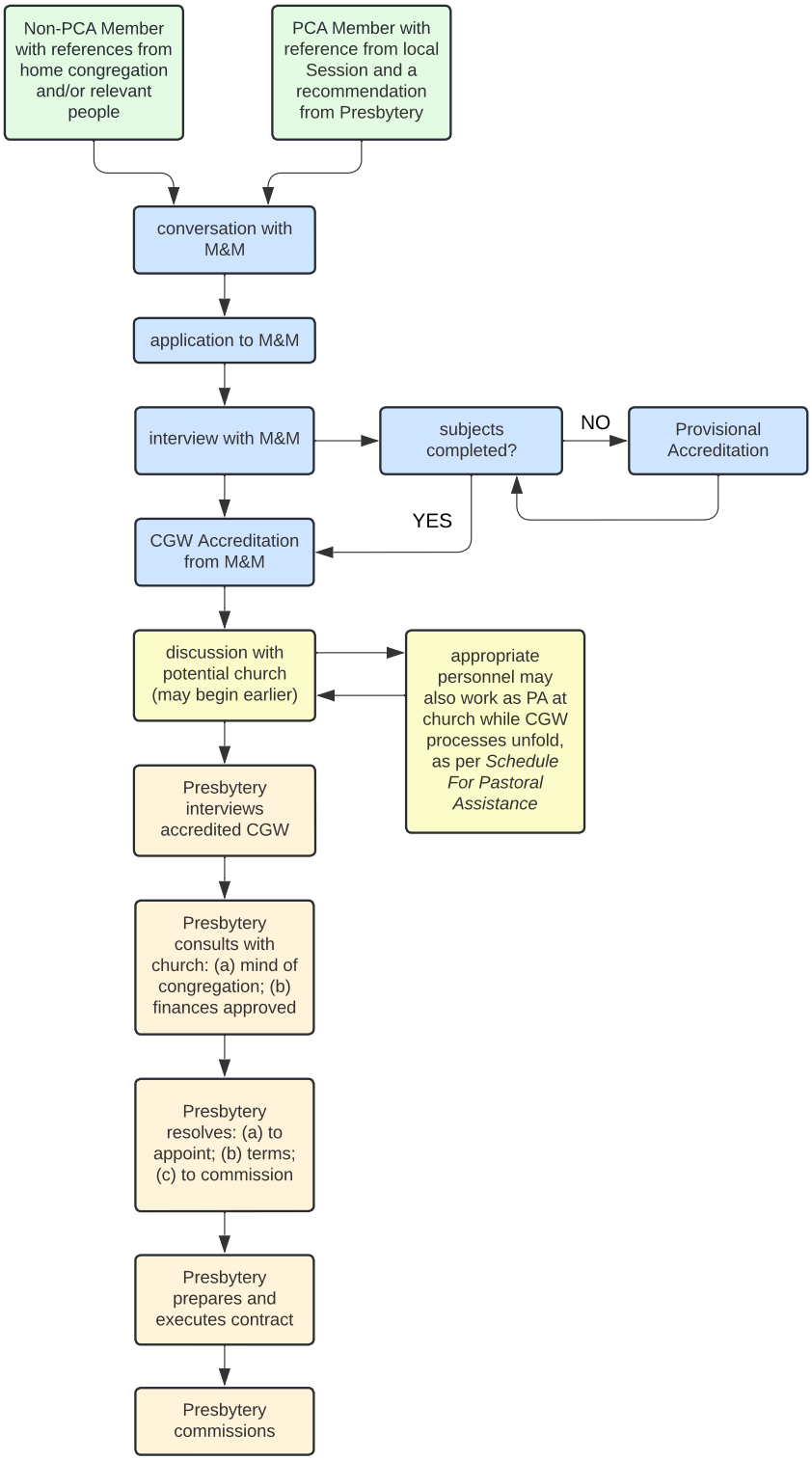
It gives the CGW immediate rights in the denomination and a way forward to have more rights and responsibility.

It gives people that have been trained at colleges other than Presbyterian Colleges a pathway to significant and recognised ministry in the PCNSW.

It gives the CGW more stability knowing they are accountable to the Presbytery.

It gives the CGW a better renumeration package than a Pastoral Assistant.

CGW Pathway


Non-PCA Member with references from home congregation and/or relevant people
PCA Member with reference from local Session and a recommendation from Presbytery
conversation with M&M
application to M&M
interview with M&M
subjects completed?
NO
Provisional Accreditation
YES
CGW Accreditation from M&M
discussion with potential church (may begin earlier)
appropriate personnel may also work as PA at church while CGW processes unfold, as per *Schedule For Pastoral Assistance*
Presbytery interviews accredited CGW
Presbytery consults with church: (a) mind of congregation; (b) finances approved
Presbytery resolves: (a) to appoint; (b) terms; (c) to commission
Presbytery prepares and executes contract
Presbytery commissions