

Standard for Presbytery Exegesis Paper  
Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

What is exegesis? Exegesis answers the question of a biblical passage (pericope): What is the original intent of the author? This is done by examining the grammar, vocabulary, and the historical and literary contexts of a passage. Exegesis discerns the context, meaning, theological interpretation and application of the passage. This is in distinction to eisegesis which is reading one's own interpretation and application into a text.

The purpose of the exegetical paper is for the ministerial candidate to demonstrate his/her proficiency with one of the original languages of Scripture. This is a serious research paper which includes the use of standard Greek or Hebrew grammars, lexicons, expository commentaries, etc. In order to complete the requirements for ordination, Candidates must demonstrate to Presbytery their competence with the use of these tools. Ordinarily, Presbytery will allow a student to submit an exegesis paper that was completed in seminary. However, the Presbytery may assign a OT/NT passage and ask the candidate to write a paper on the assigned text.

The minimal requirements for an acceptable exegesis paper must:

1. Use standard Greek or Hebrew texts – *Biblia Sacra* (Hebrew and Greek) or Nestle-Aland (Greek), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (Hebrew) the exegesis paper should be on a pericope of Scripture either in OT or NT that is at least several verses.
2. Address any text critical problems (e.g., for of Greek paper, use the tools provided in the Nestle-Aland Greek Text and consult Metzger's *Textual Commentary on the Greek NT.* )
3. Use at least two Greek or two Hebrew Grammars (e.g., Arnold & Choi (OT), Wallace (NT))
4. Consult at least one Greek or Hebrew theological dictionary (e.g., Kittel)
5. Utilize at least five commentaries, including both conservative and higher critical authors.
6. Summarize the main theological ideas of the passage or key concepts from the passage that the candidate would use in preaching this portion of Scripture.
7. Demonstrate hermeneutical competence in interpreting and applying the text in light of God's redemptive work in Christ.

The paper should be 10-12 pages minimum and include footnotes & bibliography in proper style and format. Hebrew and Greek font is preferred but English transliteration is acceptable.