

Information for Churches without a Called Pastor (References are to the *Book of Order*)

G-14.0513 Temporary Pastoral Relationships

Stated Supply Appointed by the Presbytery (through the Committee on Ministry), after consultation with the session, when a church is not seeking a pastor. Approved a year at a time. Generally congregations with Stated Supplies are too small to call a pastor and the Stated Supply fills the pulpit, moderates the Session, and conducts funerals and other services as needed.

Interim Pastor Is invited by the Session to serve a congregation, with the approval of the Presbytery (through the Committee on Ministry), while a church is seeking a pastor. An Interim may be full or part-time, and the conditions of employment are negotiated through a contract between pastor and Session, with the terms of call approved by the Presbytery (through the Committee on Ministry). An Interim may not be called as the pastor.

Temporary Supply Similar to an Interim, but this position does not require ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament, so could be filled by a seminary student or a commissioned lay pastor. Again, is invited by the Session, with the approval of the Presbytery (through the Committee on Ministry). A person serving as Temporary Supply may not be called as a pastor unless six months have elapsed since the time of the relationship, or unless this requirement is waived by a 2/3 vote of Presbytery.

G-14.0502g Designated Pastor Is called by the congregation, through its Pastor Nominating Committee (as advised through the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry) for a specified period of time not less than two years, and not more than four years. The Pastor Nominating Committee receives specific names to choose from through the Committee on Ministry. The congregation must vote to be considered for a designated term relationship. At the end of the designated time period, a designated pastor may be considered to be called as the pastor. (Note: This Presbytery has struggled in recent years to find someone willing to be a designated pastor.)

Pastor Nominating Committees (PNC see G-14.0502)

- Is a committee of the congregation, and is elected by the congregation (after being nominated by the nominating committee or from nominations from the floor) and reports to the congregation.
- Receives the Mission Statement and financial information from the Session.
- Receives approval of the Church Information Form (CIF) from the Session.
- Works only with guidance of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.
- Must keep all work confidential, particularly the names and location of persons being considered.
- Asks the Session to call congregational meetings as needed (to call the pastor, or to consider changing the status of call to designated pastor).
- Presents the name and information on the proposed pastoral candidate to the Congregation for their approval.

The Session (G-10.0000 and following)

- Consists of the moderator and elders
- The elders are elected by the congregation, as is the called pastor
- Is responsible for the leadership and discipline of the congregation.
- Is responsible to Presbytery in sending commissioners (pastor(s) and elder(s)), giving for common mission, caring for property, maintaining Presbyterian polity, etc.
- Gives financial information to the Pastor Nominating Committee and approves the Church Information Form.
- Calls congregational meetings as needed or requested.

The Congregation/Church (G-7.0000 and G-8.0000)

- Elects the Nominating Committee.
- Elects the elders.
- Elects the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Calls Pastor and approves terms of call.
- Gives and receives information and support to all whom it prayerfully elects.
- Does the ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Presbytery (G-11.0000)

- Is responsible for serving/helping congregations and facilitating their common ministry.
- Is made up of all ministers of the Word and Sacrament and the churches in its geographical boundaries.
- Has lots of committees to plan, organize, and do the work.
- "Commissioners" are the pastor(s) of congregations and commissioned elders.
- Has four yearly meetings of commissioners to direct committees, approve the budget, and to approve decisions and recommendations of committees.

- Has 5 staff members (General Presbyter, Associate Presbyter, Director of the Resource Center, and two secretaries) and everyone else who is considered “Presbytery” is a volunteer from the congregations, including many non-elders and youth.

The Committee on Ministry (COM G 11.0500)

- Is primarily responsible for relationships between the Congregation, the Session, and the staff (especially pastors).
- Conducts triennial visits as ‘check-ups’ with all congregations every three years as mandated by the Book of Order.
- Advises and assists pastors in need, with the advice and assistance of the General Presbyter.
- Advises and assists congregations, Sessions, and particularly Pastor Nominating Committees when a congregation is without a called pastor.
- Works with Pastor Nominating Committees through the call process.

Congregational Care and Development Committee (CCD)

- Is responsible to Presbytery for fulfilling the mission commitment of the Presbytery in initiating new ministries/congregations and supporting the re-development of those congregations actively committed to working for change and re-development.
- Oversees the financial aid that Presbytery receives for such aid, or that is budgeted for such aid.
- Initiates planning on behalf of Presbytery for proposed needs.
- Serves as a resource to the Presbytery in the care of Congregations.

Acronyms of the Call Process

- PNC – Pastor Nominating Committee
- COM – Committee on Ministry
- CCD – Congregational Care and Development Committee (used to be called the “Church Development Committee”)
- CIF – The “Job Description” for the pastor which is put together by the Pastor Nominating Committee, and is approved by the Session and the Committee on Ministry liaisons.
- PIF – “Resumes” of pastors which the Pastor Nominating Committee receives.
- BoO – *Book of Order*, the guidebook of polity for the Presbyterian Church.

revised January 9, 2007