

Purpose:

The Commission on Ministry serves as pastor and counselor to the teaching elders and commissioned pastors of the presbyteries. COM facilitates relations among congregations, teaching elders, and the presbyteries. And, COM inquires into and seeks to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbyteries when possible and expedient.

Responsibilities:

1. Maintains open communication, visits and consults with teaching elders and Sessions, through liaisons to congregations.
2. Reports annually to the presbytery, the type of work in which each minister is engaged.
3. Makes recommendations to the presbytery regarding the establishing and dissolving of pastoral calls and temporary pastor covenants.
4. Counsels with churches regarding calls for permanent and temporary pastoral relations, guiding and resourcing PNCs and Search Teams.
5. Provides for the implementation of EEOC for teaching elders and candidates. Provides for boundary training for teaching elders in coordination with other presbyteries in the region and ensures compliance with boundary training requirements.
6. Provides oversight to congregations without pastors. Appoints moderators of sessions.
7. Is authorized by the presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve the examination of teaching elders transferring from other presbyteries, to dissolve pastoral relationships where pastor and congregation concur, and to dismiss teaching elders to other presbyteries, provided all such actions are reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery, Is authorized to call a special meeting of any of the presbytery during its meeting for the purpose of examining candidates for ordination when timing demands such action. Such a meeting shall be announced as any other special meeting of the presbytery and all presbyters are welcome to attend.
8. Promotes the peace and harmony of congregations; inquires into the sources of congregational discord, counsels with sessions concerning reported difficulties within a congregation advises the session as to appropriate actions to be taken, offering to help as mediator, and acting to correct difficulties, if requested to do so by the session or if the session is unwilling or unable to do so. (G-3.0303d)
9. Promotes congregational health and vitality; counsels with sessions regarding their strategy for mission.
10. Provides encouragement, guidance, and resources to congregations.
11. Recommends minimum compensation standards for pastoral calls, Ruling Elders Commissioned to Pastoral Service, Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators within the presbyteries. (Minima will be initially grandfathered by current presbytery and will be incrementally brought into alignment)

12. Authorizes and trains specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament.

13. Maintains a pulpit supply list for the presbytery.

14. The COM shall organize itself into such working groups and teams as it deems necessary to accomplish the tasks delegated to it. It shall at all times communicate its processes and procedures to the presbyteries and congregations. The COM may, by vote, commission a group of its members to act on its behalf in a certain matter provided that any actions taken under such a commission are reported at the next regularly scheduled COM meeting.

15. The COM may use technology such as "Zoom" or "Go-to-Meeting" to conduct business provided that all who would ordinarily participate in such meetings have access to technology which allows them to participate.

Membership:

The Commission on Ministry ordinarily consists of 33 members, drawn from the congregations of the presbyteries. Ordinarily the team will include both teaching and ruling elders, both male and female, and representative of the diversity of the congregations of the presbyteries, in size, geography, demography, and theology.

Members of the commission are elected to serve a three-year term, with the option of renewal for one successive term. For purposes of decision-making, a quorum shall be 12 members of the commission.

Spiritual Gifts, Passion and Qualifications:

- Administrative/organizational abilities.
- Good listening skills; able to bring a non-anxious presence and to advise in difficult and complex situations.
- Wise and creative problem-solver, open to the work of the Spirit.
- Passion for cultivating leadership that can help churches thrive.
- Able to handle confidential information appropriately.