

Entities Involved in the Pastoral Call Process When a Congregation is Going to Call a Pastor

Acronyms of the Call Process

- PNC – Pastor Nominating Committee
- COM – Committee on Ministry
- MIF – 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 (COM) representatives.
- PIF – “Resumes” of pastors which the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) receives.
- BoO – *Book of Order*, the guidebook of polity for the Presbyterian Church and Part II of the constitution.

The Session (G-3.02)

- Consists of the moderator and ruling elders.
- The ruling 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.
- Leads the process of conducting a mission study for use by the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
- Gives financial information to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and approves the Ministry Information Form (MIF).
- Calls congregational meetings as needed or requested.

The Congregation/Church (G-1.01)

- 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.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) (G-2.0802)

- 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.
- Works with liaisons from the Committee on Ministry (COM).
- May work with the Session on the Mission Statement, and uses it and financial information from the Session in the search process.
- Writes a Ministry Information Form (MIF) for the search process.
- Receives approval of the MIF from the Session.
- Evaluates candidates for the position, with guidance of the presbytery’s COM.

- Must keep the specifics of their work confidential, particularly the names and location of persons being considered.
- Asks the Session to call a congregational meeting to call the Pastor.
- Presents the name and information on the proposed pastoral candidate to the Congregation for their approval.

The Presbytery (G-3.03)

- 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 three yearly meetings of commissioners to direct committees, approve the budget, discern the ministry of the presbytery, to support the ministry of congregations, and to approve decisions and recommendations of committees.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) (G-3.0307)

- 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.
- Is responsible for mediating relationships between the congregation, the Session, and the pastor(s) as needed.

revised March 2, 2021