

Pastoral Relationship Types and Information (References are to the *Book of Order*)

G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships

“Temporary pastoral relationships are approved by the presbytery and do not carry a formal call or installation. When a congregation does not have a pastor, or while the pastor is unable to perform her or his duties, the session, with the approval of presbytery, may obtain the services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, candidate, or ruling elder in a temporary pastoral relationship. No formal call shall be issued and no formal installation shall take place.”

“Titles and terms of service for temporary pastoral relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specific period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery. A minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor.”

G-2.0504c Exceptions

“A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting.”

Temporary Pastoral Relationships in the Presbytery of Arkansas

Transitional Pastor - This is a temporary pastoral relationship for use in a congregation seeking a called pastor, and the term of service is for no more than 12 months at a time but is renewable. A Transitional Pastor is a pastor who has received, or will receive within the first six months of service, formal training in interim/transitional ministry. The Transitional Pastor is employed by the session and there shall not be a congregational vote or installation service. The individual must be a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the PC(USA), a pastor from a Formula of Agreement denomination temporarily received into membership in the presbytery, or, if the Examinations Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry (COM) approves, an elder in the PC(USA), or a minister ordained and in good standing in another denomination approved by the COM. A Transitional Pastor may be full or part-time, and the conditions of employment are negotiated through a covenant between pastor and Session, with the terms of call approved by the presbytery through the Committee on Ministry (COM).

Stated Supply Pastor - This is a temporary pastoral relationship ordinarily used in congregations not seeking a called pastor, and the term of service is for no more than 12 months at a time but is renewable. The Stated Supply Pastor is employed by the session. There shall not be a congregational vote or installation service. The individual must be either a minister of Word and Sacrament of the PC(USA), a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the PC(USA), a seminary student or intern under care of a presbytery of the PC(USA), or a minister ordained and in good standing in another denomination approved by the COM.

Pulpit Supply - This is an occasional preaching relationship. The COM may approve individuals to be on the "Pulpit Supply List" based on criteria set by the COM.

Entities Involved in the Pastoral Call Process

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 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.

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.

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

Revised November 7, 2017