

POLICY 6 PASTORAL CHANGES

Dissolving the Pastoral Relationship:

- A. When a pastor decides to conclude service to a particular church, he/she shall consult with the Committee on Ministry (COM) before taking such action and before notifying the session and congregation. The COM will interpret to the pastor the process of dissolution and the action to be taken.
- B. When the pastor announces the intent to terminate to the session, a member of the COM shall be present to interpret to the session the process of dissolution and actions to be taken, and provide advice on securing an interim pastor and the process for calling a new pastor.
- C. The PNC receives Personal Discernment Profile (PDP) from any and all of several sources: Church Leadership Connection, Self-Referrals, the COM, members, etc. The PNC is careful to receive forms from qualified candidates without regard to age, sex, family composition, or other matters not bearing on the ability to fully perform the described job. Suitability is judged by the PNC and COM and personal interviews shall not be carried out before concurrence of the COM is received. Prior to said interview, the COM representative shall discuss the policies and programs of the Presbytery and answer questions relating thereto.
- D. When the PNC, COM, and the candidate are in agreement on the intention to call, the Session shall call for a congregational meeting, usually following a Worship service, for the purpose of VOTING on the recommendation of the PNC to call the candidate to the ministry of the particular church. The congregation shall also elect one or more commissioners to prosecute the call before presbytery, A COM member shall be present at this meeting.
- E. If Presbytery concurs with the call it shall proceed to examine, request a transfer if from outside the bounds of the presbytery, and enroll the candidate, and to ordain and/or install the pastor in the particular church, through its chosen commission elected for that purpose
- F. During the entire pastor-seeking process, it is understood that the PNC should keep all matters regarding candidates and their deliberations confidential. However, it is suggested that periodic general progress reports be made to the Session.

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