

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY POLICY
FOR DEALING WITH MINISTERS NOT UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE C.O.M.
BUT WHO ARE SUPPLYING OUR CONGREGATIONS**

- 1) That we define Temporary Supply as being two Sundays in succession, or two times per month, or more than four times per year. The term Occasional Supply, which no longer appears in the Book of Order, is hereby defined as any occurrence less than the Temporary Supply named above, and therefore does not require the concurrence/approval of the COM.
- 2) That the *Book of Order* recognizes those ministers of other Reformed churches (G-11.0404) plus those denominations in correspondence and full communion with our General Assembly (G-15.0102 and G-15.0201) will receive preferential treatment by the COM for serving as temporary supply.
- 3) That the COM shall continue to rebuild the approved supply list of our own Presbytery and also consider that other PCUSA ministers in good standing in their own presbyteries shall be considered as *approved* for temporary supply. If a minister does not appear on the list, the church would seek the counsel and concurrence of the Committee on Ministry. This would be accomplished by an interview/examination process to be developed (see below).
- 4) That the COM shall make every effort to see that every vacant church be assigned a minister/moderator from our Presbytery for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the *Book of Order* and maintaining the bonds of unity.
- 5) That retired ministers and/or surviving spouses in our Presbytery shall be given more care and attention. Some of our retired ministers may be able to serve as moderators or temporary supplies. This task is given to the Sub-committee Compensation, Relationships, and Retirement.
- 6) That the COM shall provide to all the churches of Salem Presbytery a document explaining the definitions of Temporary Supply and Occasional Supply. In addition, the COM shall supply an annotated list of Ministers, Candidates, and CLP's who have been approved by the COM to serve as Occasional, Temporary, and Stated Supplies. The COM upon request of the Session may, at its discretion, grant permission for the Temporary Supply to moderate the Session, do Pastoral work, and/or celebrate the Sacraments.
- 7) That if a person is not on the annotated list mention above, and a church request that such a person serve as a supply, then it is necessary for such a person to present their credentials (vita, work history, and references) to the COM and be interviewed by a special task force (noted below). Those who are ministers in good standing of other Reformed Churches (G-11.0404) plus those denominations in correspondence and/or full communion with our General Assembly (G-15.0102 and G-15.0201) will have no further examination.
- 8) Those ministers who do not meet the above requirements will, in addition, be *examined* to determine whether their theology and practice is compatible with the theology and practice of the PCUSA before approval. A document of compliance shall then be signed by the Minister, the Moderator of the COM, and the Clerk of Session of the Church involved. The documents shall include the following:
 - a. I will abide by the polity of the PCUSA.
 - b. I will exercise my ministry under the jurisdiction of the COM of Salem Presbytery and should they, at any time, find my ministry out of compliance with the doctrine and polity of the PCUSA, the COM may, at their discretion, modify or terminate this relationship. Signed and countersigned.
- 9) The task of interviewing applicants for the supply list shall be the responsibility of a joint task force composed of representatives by and from the COM and Examinations Committee. This special task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the COM through the Sub-Committee on Compensation, Relationships, and Retirement.

Salem Presbytery Document of Compliance

To be completed by the minister:

I, _____, in my ministry with _____ Presbyterian Church, located in _____, North Carolina in Salem Presbytery, do certify that I will:

- 1) Abide by the polity of the PCUSA; and
- 2) Exercise my ministry under the jurisdiction of the COM of Salem Presbytery.

I understand that should the COM of Salem Presbytery, at any time, find my ministry out of compliance with the doctrine and polity of the PCUSA, they may, at their discretion, modify or terminate this relationship.

Signed _____ Date _____

To be completed by the congregation and the COM:

The Committee on Ministry of Salem Presbytery declares that _____ has been examined on _____ by _____ and has shown that his/her theology and practice is compatible with the PCUSA theology and practice and has therefore been given permission to practice ministry in the following ways with the congregation of _____ Presbyterian Church:

- Preaching and leading worship;
- Providing care for the congregation;
- Administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper;
- Administering the sacrament of Baptism;

The Committee on Ministry gives above permission only if the above Document of Compliance has been signed by applying minister as well as the persons below:

Signed _____ (COM Moderator) Date _____

Signed _____ (Clerk of Session) Date _____