

## 4.00 Commission on Ministry

### 4.10 Membership

Membership of the Commission on Ministry shall consist of equal numbers of teaching elders (ministers) and ruling elders (*Book of Order*, G-3.0307). There shall be forty-six (46) voting members, with fifteen members from each of the three Missional Communities as equally divided between ruling elders and teaching elders as is possible and a teaching or ruling elder as Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry who is not a member of any of the three community Commissions on Ministry. The General Presbyter/Stated Clerk and the three Mission Coordinators serve as advisory members without vote. (See Section 5.31 of *Manual*.)

### 4.11 Mission

To serve as pastor and counselor to teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient and to provide for the training, examination and commissioning of ruling elders to particular pastoral service. (G-3.0307; 2.0903; 2.10)

### 4.12 Responsibilities

The **responsibilities** of the Commission on Ministry and its three Community Commissions are spelled out in the *Commission on Ministry Handbook* and include:

1. To develop, review and revise annual goals, objectives, and action plans, to keep full minutes of meetings and actions and to report to the Presbytery on any actions taken on its behalf;
2. to facilitate Church-Pastor relations;
3. to work with the Missional Communities to develop strategies for the mission of the church in its area;
4. to work through each of the Missional Community's Commissions on Ministry with the churches in the Missional Communities and their leadership groups to address specific needs as they apply to the work of the Committee on Ministry;
5. to carry out the constitutionally-assigned functions of examining, receiving, counseling, and dismissing ministers;
6. to carry out a preliminary examination of candidates for ordination who shall ordinarily preach a sermon before the Presbytery or one of its Missional Community Gatherings as part of the floor examination for ordination;
7. to arrange for the introduction of new teaching elders (ministers) to the Presbytery including sharing of their statements of faith and biographical sketches;
8. to coordinate the training and examination of ruling elders who sense a call to particular pastoral ministry as Commissioned Ruling Elders and provide for their oversight and continuing education;

9. to minister to the ministers and their families;
10. to counsel with the Pastor Nominating Committees, and to advise the Sessions of vacant churches with regard to pastoral services;
11. to carry out applicable provisions of the sexual misconduct, ethics, and boundary training and certification policies;
12. to examine non-PC(USA) ministers being considered for pastoral leadership by congregations in the Presbytery and to provide training and support to any of those permitted to serve congregations of the Presbytery;
13. to work with the Missional Community Mission Coordinators in providing care for churches and their pastors, in counseling churches with regard to pastoral services, and in addressing conflicts and issues that may arise including the appointment of Committees of Inquiry or Administrative Commissions;
14. to appoint Pastoral Teams to work congregations discerning their relationship with the PC(USA) as outlined in the Presbytery's Separation Policy.

#### **4.13 Commission Power**

The Commission on Ministry and its Community Commissions shall have authority to act for the Presbytery on the following limited matters as detailed in the *Book of Order* and the *Commission on Ministry Handbook*:

1. Grant permission for minister members (Teaching Elders) to engage in work outside the geographic bounds and/or jurisdiction of this Presbytery (G-2.0502 and G-2.0503), and to grant permission to minister members of other presbyteries to engage in work within the bounds and/or jurisdiction of this presbytery.
2. Commission Ruling Elders to pastoral service in a congregation – G-2.1002
3. Validate the ministry of Teaching Elders who are not serving in a pastoral relationship in a particular church and review that ministry on an annual basis – G-2.0503
4. Grant Honorable Retired status to teaching elders – 2.0503c.
5. Approve pastoral relationships in:
  - a. Installed pastoral relationships – G-2.0504a
  - b. Temporary pastoral relationships – G-2.0504b
  - c. Approve terms of call – G-3.0109b(3)
6. Receive the transfer of ministers of other denominations:
  - a. As full members of the Presbytery – G-2.0505
  - b. As temporary members of the Presbytery – G-2.0506
7. Release Teaching Elders from ministry at their request – G-2.0507
8. Appoint moderators for sessions without an installed pastor – G-3.0104
9. Name Administrative Commissions to ordain and/or install Teaching Elders to pastoral relationships – G-3.0109b(2); G-3.0109b(3)

10. Examine and receive into membership Teaching Elders seeking admission to presbytery – G-3.0109b(3)
11. Counsel with sessions concerning reported difficulties – G-3.0303d(1) – (3)

#### **4.14 Authority Reserved to Full Presbytery**

Any other responsibilities found in the *Book of Order* are reserved to the Presbytery and/or its Missional Communities. In particular, the Commission on Ministry **shall not** take action concerning the following matters as detailed in the *Book of Order*, **but may** make a recommendation to the full Presbytery for **its action**.

1. Removal of the name of a Teaching Elder from the role of the Presbytery for failure to be engaged in a validated ministry or to fulfill the criteria for membership-at-large (G-2.0508) or for persisting in work disapproved by the presbytery (G-2.0509).
2. Establish minimum compensation for Teaching Elders, Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators – G-3.0103c

#### **4.15 Authority Reserved to Presbytery and/or Missional Communities**

Any other responsibilities found in the *Book of Order* are reserved to the Presbytery and/or its Missional Communities. In particular, the Commission on Ministry **shall not** take action concerning the following matters as detailed in the *Book of Order*, **but may** make a recommendation to the full Presbytery or its Missional Communities for **its action**.

1. Assumption of original jurisdiction of a session – G-3.0303e
2. Exceptions to the prohibition on calling of an Associate Pastor as the next Installed Pastor of a congregation or the calling of a Teaching Elder engaged in a temporary pastoral relationship as the next Installed Pastor of a congregation – G-2.0504c.
3. Examination of candidates for ordination as teaching elders.
4. Dissolve pastoral relationships where one or both of the parties (pastor and/or congregation) do *not* concur with the dissolution.

#### **4.16 Sharing of Actions**

All faith statements and biographical sketches and actions of the Commission on Ministry related to the reception of minister members of the Presbytery shall be published on the Presbytery's website in a timely manner.