

Role of the Commission on Ministry

Under the current Form of Government, G-3.0307 states that “Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes 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.”

By action of Presbytery, the Commission on Ministry has been designated as the commission with delegated authority to carry out the functions identified above. It does so through the following actions:

- Examine and approve teaching elders for membership in the presbytery;
- Review and approve calls issued by congregations for installed pastoral relationships;
- Examine and approve teaching elders for service beyond the jurisdiction of the church;
- Dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor concur;
- Inquire into reported difficulties in a congregation;
- Appoint moderators for sessions of churches as necessary;
- Validate ministries for teaching elders laboring beyond the jurisdiction of the church;
- Approve ministers as honorably retired, or member-at-large;
- Dismiss members to other presbyteries.

For all actions carried out as a result of these delegated authorities, COM must report any such action to the presbytery at its next regular meeting.

To facilitate the responsibilities above, the Commission on Ministry also:

- Recommends to the Presbytery annually for action any change in minimum terms of call;
- Reviews annually the compensation and benefit package of all installed pastoral relationships within the Presbytery to determine that they meet the Presbytery’s minimum terms of call;
- Approves pulpit supply list annually;
- Approves and communicates the rate for all pulpit supply and appointed moderators of sessions;
- Provides support and guidance for sessions and certified Christian educators in the employment process.