

Coastlands Presbytery Commission on Ministry

GUIDELINES FOR LABORING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF PRESBYTERY

Expectations for Presbytery Membership

Every minister shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where he or she resides. (G-3.0306)

Should a minister seek to establish an ongoing ministerial relationship (whether full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary) with a congregation or organization whose membership rests in another presbytery, that minister must request permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the presbytery.

Laboring Outside the Bounds

Minister members of Coastlands Presbytery may accept occasional invitations to conduct workshops, preach and participate in worship services within the bounds of another presbytery without prior approval of the presbytery or the committee on ministry under the following circumstances:

- The minister is in good standing within CP and the minister's service is not restricted in any fashion by prior disciplinary action or COM oversight.
- An invitation has been received from the pastor and the Session of a particular church, or from a governing body of the church, or from an ecumenical agency related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- The service is of a limited nature and does not constitute a continuing relationship between the minister and the church or agency.
- The work does not involve service at a congregation or with a member previously served by the teaching elder as an installed, interim or stated supply pastor or associate pastor.
- Labor within the bounds of another presbytery has been approved or reported as required by that presbytery. (The minister is responsible for compliance with requirements of the other presbytery.)

When any one of these criteria is not met the request must come before the committee on ministry for approval.

Laboring Inside the Bounds:

Ministers who are members of other presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or who are members in good standing of other Christian churches may be invited to conduct occasional workshops, preach and participate in worship services within the bounds of this presbytery without prior approval of the presbytery or the committee on ministry under the following circumstances:

- An invitation has been issued by the pastor and the Session of a particular church, by a governing body of the church, or ecumenical agency related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- The service is of a limited nature and does not constitute a continuing relationship between the minister and the particular church or agency.

- The work does not involve service at a congregation or with a member previously served by the teaching elder as an installed, interim or stated supply pastor or associate pastor. Ministers in good standing from churches that are party to the Formula of Agreement (ELCA, RCA, UCC, PCUSA) may preside at worship and officiate at the Sacraments when invited by a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), provided such service is reported at least annually to the presbytery through the committee on ministry.
- Ministers in good standing of other Christian churches (not party to the Formula of Agreement) may assist at but may not preside at Sacraments without the prior approval of the committee on ministry.

When any one of these criteria is not met the request must come to the committee on ministry for approval.

Requests requiring the approval of the Commission on Ministry

Should a minister wish to establish an ongoing relationship with a congregation or organization whose membership rests in a presbytery other than the minister's presbytery of membership, that minister must seek the approval of the Commission on Ministry.

In the minister's request, the minister should address the following:

- the location of the minister's primary personal support network
- the location of the minister's professional support network
- the duration of the relationship
- the minister's ability to be involved in the life of the presbytery of membership

In addition, the minister should provide the Commission on Ministry with copies of the terms of call/compensation as well as the position description outlining the responsibilities of the ministry to which the minister has been called.

Confirmation that the presbytery in which the congregation or organization is located has granted approval should be communicated through the presbyteries' Stated Clerks.