

CALLING A DESIGNATED PASTOR OR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

**Mission Presbytery
Commission on Ministry**

G-2.0504a: The installed pastoral relationships are pastor, co-pastor, and associate pastor. A teaching elder may be installed in a pastoral relationship for an indefinite period or for a *designated term determined by the presbytery in consultation with the congregation and specified in the call.*

A designated pastoral relationship, full or part-time, is a call to a minister of the Word and Sacrament established by the presbytery for a term of not less than two nor more than four years. The congregation and the minister must both have agreed to be considered for a designated relationship. The congregation's pastoral nominating committee shall nominate to the congregation for its consideration and vote, only from among those ministers designated to it by the presbytery's committee on ministry. The minister is installed by the presbytery and is a member of the session.

The call approved by the presbytery is renewable anytime during the last six months of the term. It cannot be changed or dissolved except by consent of the presbytery, at the request of the pastor or at the request of the church by action of the congregation, when the presbytery (after consultation with the minister and the congregation) finds that the church's mission under the Word imperatively demands it, or when the term specified in the call expires without action having been taken to renew the call. The presbytery may designate and the congregation may call more than one minister to serve as designated pastor, sharing duties within the congregation as agreed upon by the session and approved by the presbytery. When there is more than one pastor, the ministers and the session shall agree on a schedule for sharing the times each will moderate.

The session will participate in an annual review of the ministry with the pastor. Six months prior to the ending date of the call, the session will consider with the pastor and Commission on Ministry whether or not to continue the relationship for another designated period, or for an indefinite term. If the session and designated Pastor determine to convert the relationship to an indefinite term, the session will submit a request to COM for approval. Upon COM approval, the congregation will vote on the election of the person as Pastor, Associate Pastor or Co-pastor. A second installation is not necessary, although COM encourages a public acknowledgement of the change in status of the pastor.

If there has been an open search process conducted by the Commission on Ministry and after at least two years of the designated pastor relationship, upon the concurrence of the Commission on Ministry, the designated pastor and the PNC or session, a congregational meeting may be held to call the designated pastor as pastor. The session, with the concurrence of the Commission on Ministry, may call a congregational meeting to elect a pastor nominating committee to conduct a full pastoral search or to prosecute the call to the designated pastor to become pastor. The action of the congregation shall be reported to the presbytery.

In sum:

Designated Pastor or Associate Pastor:

- is selected from among a few candidates forwarded by presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM);
- is generally able to move into a new position fairly quickly;
- is an installed position;
- is a term-limited position;

- requires two votes of the congregation: (1) to establish position and then (2) to approve specific call;
- requires approval by COM to (1) establish position and then (2) to approve specific call;
- requires an installation;
- requires review and reconsideration as the designated term concludes – whether to convert to a called-installed “permanent” position, or to part company.

Approved by COM: (date)