

Procedure: Calling A Designated Pastor
(Book of Order G-14.501)
(Revised 8/00)

Purpose

An alternative way to call a pastor which COM may recommend to a congregation under special circumstances.

1. When it is advisable to avoid a long search process.
2. When a rapid call is advisable.

Differences From A Stated Supply Relationship

1. A stated supply relationship is temporary and may be terminated on short notice.
2. The designation plan provides for a 2, 3, or 4 year period of consistent leadership.

The Congregation's Role In Selecting A Designated Pastor

1. The congregation elects a Pastor Nominating Committee.
2. The COM may set its own requirements for forms and processes to be used.
3. The COM may recommend from 1 to 3 pastors who have been pre-screened. The PNC chooses from among those persons.
4. At any time, the COM may recommend, or the Pastor Nominating Committee may request, that the plan be set aside and the usual calling practice be used.

Circumstances When The Designation Plan May Be Considered

When congregations need:

1. Time to test new possibilities for growth, or to gain a firmer financial position before entering a permanent pastoral relationship.
2. Stability after a period of conflict.
3. A few years for planning for a new mission or ministry.
4. To build self-confidence in their ability to call a pastor, rather than continuing in a stated supply relationship.
5. An alternative way to call a pastor when the usual referral system has not been effective.

Reasons A Minister Might Choose To Be A Designated Pastor

When a minister is seeking:

1. To move in a rapid time frame.
2. A call within a limited geographical area.
3. A period of time to test the viability of a situation.
4. An opportunity to explore new patterns of ministry, such as tent-making or team ministry.
5. A call which fits the special needs of dual career or clergy couples.
6. A time of stability before making a long-term commitment.
7. A few years of ministry before retirement.
8. Relocation when the usual process hasn't been effective.

Implementation

1. The COM discusses this alternative with the Session and secures their agreement to proceed.
2. A congregational meeting is called to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and approve the process to be used In calling a pastor.
3. The plan Is outlined for the congregation.
4. COM meets with the PNC to explain Its requirements for forms, processes, and time-line.
5. COM provides the PNC with names of 1-3 persons whom they have pre-screened.
6. PNC decides from among these persons. The PNC, COM and the pastor agree on terms of call, including the contracted time of the call.
7. PNC asks Session to call a congregational meeting for electing a pastor in the usual manner.
8. The Pastor is installed In the usual manner.
9. At least one year prior to the ending date of the call, the Session, the pastor and the COM shall conduct a review of the ministry. At this time, the pastor, the Session, or the COM may recommend that Presbytery:
10. Continue the relationship for another specified term.
11. End the relationship at the close of the Initial term.
12. Install to a permanent pastoral position. (G-14.0501-g)
13. The Designated Pastor may be a candidate (one of several) for the “called” position, should the Congregation decide to pursue the regular pastor calling process.
14. The terms of call shall include the following statement: “The terms of dissolution of this Designated Pastor relationship are in accordance with the Book of Order provisions for all installed pastoral positions.”