

COM announces increase in Pulpit Supply Honoraria

The following are strongly recommended guidelines for honoraria to be provided to those who fill our pulpits as guest preachers or moderator our Sessions / Congregational Meetings.

Do we always provide an honorarium for the visiting minister?

Always, with this exception: If a minister is filling your pulpit at the request of an invitation, agency, or governing body he or she represents, no honorarium is called for. Whenever the preacher is filling the pulpit or moderating the Session / Congregational Meeting as a service to the pastor, the session or congregation, an honorarium should be given.

It is easy to rationalize that a presbytery or church agency staff minister is already paid from church funds and needs no honorarium. Consider, however, that nearly all the preachers who supply your church prepare their sermons and come to your church during hours, which they would otherwise enjoy with their families and as leisure time. Unless they clearly have come to fulfill a staff responsibility, an honorarium should be paid.

How much should be paid for an honorarium?

COM recommends the following amounts, in addition to reimbursement for travel:

For one worship service: \$150

For two worship services: \$200

COM recommends that the honorarium for a Moderator of the Session or Congregational Meeting be \$75 per meeting in addition to reimbursement for travel..

Round trip travel, and meals and lodging away from home, should be reimbursed appropriately. The recommended rate of reimbursement is the standard IRS mileage reimbursement.

Presenting the honorarium:

The honorarium may be handed to the supply minister or moderator immediately prior to or after the service or meeting by a member of the session, or mailed a day or so after the service. When treasurers are instructed to mail the honorarium, the Clerk of Session or Chair of the Worship Committee should check with the treasurer later in the week to make sure this has been done.