

Committee on Ministry

(Approved by the Presbytery of Hudson River: 5-23-17)

Purpose: The purpose of the **Committee on Ministry** (COM) is to oversee all the appropriate requirements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as related to the pastoral relationships with the presbytery's congregations and the status of all its members, in such a way that will create and sustain healthy, vital communities of faith and provide strong, transformative leadership for the Presbytery of Hudson River (HRP).

Accountability: COM shall be accountable to the HRP.

Membership: COM shall consist of between 24 to 30 voting member, comprised of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible, nominated by the Committee on Representation and Nominations and elected by HRP; these persons will preferably have knowledge of the PCUSA call process and pastoral search and/or systems theory as well as skills in conflict mediation and/or negotiation. The term of service is three (3) years with the eligibility to serve two full terms or a maximum of six (6) consecutive years. The chair/s shall also be nominated by the Committee of Representation and Nominations and elected by HRP for a one year term which may be renewable. The Personnel Committee shall appoint any staff liaison/s who shall be ex officio members with voice but no vote.

Meetings: COM will meet ordinarily meet monthly but not less than quarterly.

Responsibilities:

The **COM** shall have commission powers (G-3.0109) to act on behalf of and with the full authority of the presbytery in between meetings of the presbytery in the following ways:

1. Examine and receive Teaching Elders by transfer from other presbyteries for the purpose of accepting valid calls to ministry and membership in the Presbytery as well as for membership in the Presbytery as at-large and honorably retired.
2. Authorize the formation of and provide resourcing to a Pastor Nominating Committee following the departure of a pastor and approve the Ministry Information Form prior to its approved by the session.
3. Approve "Goodness of Fit" between congregations and potential new pastors prior to the congregational meeting to call a pastor including Terms of Call.
4. Approve calls following the action of a congregation and appoint administrative commissions for the purpose of ordaining and installing Teaching Elders and of commissioning Ruling Elders to particular pastoral service.
5. Approve terms of call and agreements for Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders and set minimum standards.
6. Review and act on contracts for temporary pastoral services, counseling with sessions and pastoral leaders when necessary.
7. Act on matters relating to the dissolution of pastoral calls including the following: dissolving pastoral calls when there is concurrence between pastor and congregation; reviewing and bringing to the Presbytery for action matters related to the dissolution of pastoral calls when

there is not concurrence between pastor and congregation; and providing and guide the process for the dissolution of pastoral calls when necessary.

8. Act on matters related to presbytery membership, as requested and required, by receiving and dismissing teaching elder members who are in good standing.
9. Act on requests for validated ministries, requests for positions to be considered for ordination, and review annually the work of all teaching elders engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation, in accordance with Presbytery policy.
10. Approve moderators for sessions and congregations in need of moderators.
11. Approve services of ordination and/or installation of Teaching Elders and services of commissioning for Ruling Elders approved to receive a commission.
12. Dismiss teaching elders to other presbyteries.
13. Approve temporary pastoral positions (stated supply and interim) and their terms.
14. Approve persons to be on the pulpit supply list.
15. Approve honorable retirements and pastor emeritus status.
16. Approve ruling elders (who have successfully completed HRP's sacrament training) upon the request of a session to be given permission to do communion.

In addition, the COM is responsible for the following:

1. Consult with and counsel pastors and church councils/sessions regarding their life and ministry.
2. Appoint and oversee the Boundary Awareness/Sexual Misconduct Response Team, the Mediation Team and the Clergy Compensation sub-committees.
3. Prepare and propose an annual budget.