

CALLING A DESIGNATED PASTOR OR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Mission Presbytery Commission on Ministry

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 Mission Presbytery's Commission 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.

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 Mission 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: August 8, 2018