

Policy Regarding Minister Members Desiring to Seek a New Call Within the Bounds of Albany Presbytery

When minister members of Albany Presbytery would like to seek a new call within the bounds of Albany Presbytery, they shall first notify the Chair of Committee on Ministry and the General Presbyter, who shall confer with them regarding the advisability of pursuing a call to particular congregations within the presbytery.

In the same way, when Pastor Nominating Committees or Sessions would like to ask a minister member of Albany Presbytery to consider being a candidate for a pastoral position, they shall first notify the Chair of Committee on Ministry, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Reviews and Clearances, and the General Presbyter, who shall confer with them regarding the advisability of pursuing the candidacy of that minister member.

Rationale: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Ministry to:

G-11.0502b.make recommendations to presbytery regarding calls for the services of its ministers. Every call for the services of a minister or candidate in a pastoral relationship shall be placed in its hands and presented by it to the presbytery, with a report as to the call being in order and recommendation as to whether the call shall be placed in the hands of the minister or candidate.

Because the Committee on Ministry or the General Presbyter may be aware of circumstances in congregations which call for particular skills; or may be aware of a particular history, conflict or issue which a congregation or a minister member may have, it is important that COM and the General Presbyter be consulted before the minister member or the congregation explore a partnership.

Please note, COM and the General Presbyter act in an advisory capacity. Minister members and congregation have the right to petition the Presbytery to approve a pastoral relationship despite COM's advice or lack of support. In that case the Presbytery would make a decision based on input from the church, the candidate as well as from COM and the General Presbyter.

Approved by COM January 2011