

Commission on Ministry (COM)

Purpose: The purpose of the Commission on Ministry (COM) is to oversee all the 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 San Fernando (PSF).

Accountability: COM shall be accountable to the PSF.

Membership: The COM shall consist of twelve (12) members, and equal number of teaching elders and ruling elders, selected in accordance with the provisions of Sections 7.23, 7.24 and 7.41.

Meetings: The COM shall normally meet once a month, but not less than quarterly. Because of the nature of the business transacted at the meetings, members are ordinarily expected to attend in person.

The COM shall have all the responsibilities set forth in G-2.0502, G-3.0306 and G-3.0307. The COM shall have commission powers to act on behalf of and with the full authority of PSF in between PSF meetings in the following ways (see G-3.0301a,b,c):

1. Authorize, at the appropriate time, 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 approval by the session.
2. Examine candidates for ordination who have been extended an invitation by a Pastor Nominating Commission to candidate and, if sustained, present them to PSF for examination after being called by the congregation.
3. Examine and receive Ministers of Word and Sacrament by transfer from other presbyteries for the purpose of accepting valid calls to ministry and membership in PSF as well as for membership in PSF as at-large and retired.
4. Approve "Fitness of Call" between congregations and potential new pastors prior to the congregational meeting to call a pastor, including Terms of Call.
5. Approve calls following the action of a congregation and appoint administrative commissions for the purpose of ordaining and installing ministers of Word and Sacrament.
6. Approve any changes in the terms of call for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and covenant agreements for Commissioned Ruling Elder and set minimum standards.
7. Review and act on agreements for temporary pastoral services, counseling with sessions and pastoral leaders when necessary.
8. 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 PSF for action matters related to the dissolution of pastoral calls when there is not concurrence between pastor and congregation; and providing and guiding the process for the dissolution of pastoral calls when necessary.

9. Act on matters related to PSF membership, as requested, and required, by receiving and dismissing Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are in good standing.
10. Act on requests for validated ministries, requests for positions to be considered for ordination, and review annually the work of all Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation and who are at-large.
11. Approve moderators for sessions and congregations as needed.
12. Dismiss Ministers of Word and Sacrament to other presbyteries.
13. Approve temporary pastoral positions (temporary, stated supply, and interim) and their terms.
14. Approve persons to be on the pulpit supply list.
15. Approve retirements and pastor emeritus status.
16. Call a meeting of the Session (G-3.0203) or congregation (G-1.0503) when circumstances deem it appropriate.
17. Consult and mediate with teaching elders and congregations in times of disagreement
18. Approve duly trained ruling elders 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 sessions regarding their life and ministry.
2. Oversee the implementation requirements of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, including, but not limited to, providing periodic training opportunities for PSF Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs), and PSF employees and volunteers, and managing the process concerning the Response Coordination Team.
3. Oversee the process of evaluation and examination of those the Committee on Preparation for Ministry has approved ready to be a CRE and oversee and support those who are CREs; reviewing their work at least annually.
4. Provide newly ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament with a mentor and Commissioned Ruling Elders with a Minister of Word and Sacrament supervisor/mentor.
5. Provide, in collaboration with PSF staff, orientation of new PSF members.
6. Encourage the continuing professional and personal spiritual development of all Ministers of Word and Sacrament and CREs in ways that meet individual needs.
7. Encourage regular attendance at Presbytery meetings.

8. Mark retirements and deaths for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders as appropriate
9. Maintain a relationship with Retired members of the Presbytery.
10. Prepare and propose an annual budget for COM-related expenses.
11. Express the concern of Presbytery for chaplains within the bounds of or related to Presbytery or its churches;
12. Be the source of information and services pertaining to pensions and welfare assistance for teaching elder members.