

Transitions models

Some reflections on the discussion of transition models for congregations with installed pastorates:

The COM discussion at its June 30 , 2010, meeting affirmed the traditional model of transition as reflected in the Book of Order and on the Presbytery website. That is, a pastor announces that he/she is leaving, COM appoints a liaison, there is an interim pastor, an elected PNC and full search. COM recognizes that, for some congregations, there may be a lengthy search process, given the current placement system in the PCUSA.

The “Interim Tasks” are important to the transition of a congregation to a new installed pastorate.

There may be particular circumstances for a particular congregation in which the session might wish to negotiate some modification of that model with the COM.

1. The person available to provide temporary pastoral services in the transition wishes to be considered for the permanent position.
2. The session/congregation may wish to be able to consider calling a person they have contracted with for a temporary position.
3. There are program considerations that would benefit from not having a long period of a temporary pastor.

The COM believes that for there to be the possibility for a temporary supply position to be moved to an installed position, the search committee of the session must include a wide representation of the congregation as would an elected PNC.

The COM also affirms that the pastor who is leaving shall not have any influence over the choice of a temporary supply that might move into an installed position.

Approved September 2010