

Companions for Experienced Pastors
New to Albany Presbytery

Statement of purpose: The Committee on Ministry (COM) of Albany Presbytery is committed to providing support for pastoral staff entering the presbytery and those changing roles within the presbytery. The term "pastoral staff" includes ministers of word and sacrament, Certified Christian Educators, and Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLPs). Pastoral Staff beginning a position in Albany Presbytery for the first time are provided a companion for their first year of service in this presbytery. The COM chair and General Presbyter create the pairings. The role of companion is less formal than that of mentor to newly ordained pastors described in Policy A-4 of the COM manual.

Role of Companion: A pastoral companion is a welcoming, supportive and encouraging presence during the first year of the service of a pastoral staff member in this presbytery. The companion and pastoral staff person should stay in regular contact during the first year. This could include checking in with each other once a month; meeting occasionally to share a meal or other informal face-to-face time; answering questions about resources, processes or connections in the presbytery, the community and the capital region; and praying regularly for each other.

The goal of the companion-staff relationship is to develop and maintain an open, cordial and confidential relationship. However, companions are not expected to serve as formal spiritual directors, or to help resolve serious problems if they arise in the individual's personal or professional life. If these deeper needs occur, a companion should strongly encourage his partner to speak with the General Presbyter or COM chair, who may be able to suggest available outside resources.

Committee on Ministry March 12, 2008