

# JOURNEY BETWEEN PASTORS

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

PRESBYTERY OF DENVER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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## **EXPLANATION OF TERMS**

**Board of Pensions:** Agency of the Presbytery Church (U.S.A. responsible for managing both a health care and retirement fund for ministers and other eligible employees of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Address: 2000 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298. Telephone: 800-773-7752.

**Candidate:** A minister who is being seriously considered by a Search Committee or Pastor Nominating Committee.

**Church Information Form (CIF):** The document completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee, filed on-line with the *Church Leadership Connection* of the PCUSA. This document is the primary marketing tool for the position and contains information about the church and community, as well as information about the position and compensation package.

**Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP):** An Elder who has received extensive special training from the presbytery in order to prepare him or her to serve as a pastoral leader. CLPs lead worship and *may be authorized by presbytery* to administer the Sacraments, perform marriages, or moderate Session and congregational meetings.

**Committee on Ministry (COM):** A committee of Presbytery who is "to serve as pastor and counselor to the ministers of Presbytery, to facilitate the relations between congregations, ministers and the Presbytery, and to settle difficulties on behalf of Presbytery when possible and expedient." (See G-11.0500)

**Committee on Ministry Liaison (COM Liaison):** A trained volunteer and usually a **current or former** member of the Committee on Ministry who is responsible to assist a congregation through the pastoral search period.

**Committee on Ministry Team (COM Team):** A sub-group of COM that oversees the process of transition between pastors in partnership with the COM Liaison.

**Designated Pastor:** A pastor elected for a two-to-four year term by the congregation. Those nominated will come from a list prepared by the Committee on Ministry. (See G-14.0520)

**Executive Presbyter:** An elected administrator of the Presbytery who is responsible for staff support to the Committee on Ministry. The Presbytery of Denver does not have such a position.

**Exit Interview:** A conversation between a pastor and Committee on Ministry representatives to review the past and anticipate the future ministry of the pastor and the congregation.

**Interim Pastor/Interim Associate Pastor:** A minister invited by the Session with the concurrence of the Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery to serve for a period of one year, which may be renewed. An interim pastor or associate pastor may not be called to be the next installed pastor/associate pastor.(See G-14.0553)

**Interim Search Committee:** A team, usually 3-5 persons, appointed by the Session to present a candidate for interim pastoral services in consultation with COM. (Interim Pastor and Temporary Supply). The team is responsible to prepare certain documents, interview candidates and negotiate a contract for Session's approval.

**Twelve Questions Task Group:** A committee of the congregation recruited by the Session and responsible to manage the work of the church's Twelve Questions document. It is recommended that the PNC be actively involved with this group.

**Neutral Pulpit:** A church, which is not seeking a pastor, comparable in size and constituency to the church bringing the candidate, and willing to have a guest minister preach and lead liturgy for a particular worship service. Members of the PNC attend the service.

**Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC):** A committee elected by the congregation that is responsible to nominate a minister to the congregation for election as pastor. (See G-14.0530, 0531, 0532)

**Personal Information Form (PIF):** The form filled out by pastors seeking new positions describing themselves, their education and training, their accomplishments and their goals in Ministry.

**Pulpit Supply:** A Pastor, elder, or CLP that may be called upon to preach in transition periods. They are contracted by the session to preach for specific agreed upon worship services. Presbytery has a list of Pulpit Supplies on its website, [www.denverpresbytery.org](http://www.denverpresbytery.org).

**Stated Supply Pastor:** A pastor appointed by the Presbytery after consultation with the Session for a period, not to exceed twelve months at a time. Only churches not seeking an installed pastor may have a stated supply pastor appointed to serve them. (See G-14.0550)

**Temporary Supply Pastor:** A minister, candidate, commissioned lay preacher, or elder appointed by the Session after counsel with the Committee on Ministry. The Temporary Supply Pastor is not eligible to fill the called position (See G-14.0550, 0551)

**Tentmaking Minister:** A minister of the Word and Sacrament whose ministry has been validated by Presbytery and who receives a major portion of his/her financial support from sources other than church employment.

**Twelve Questions:** Question to be answered by the twelve questions task group and approved by the session and the COM team that oversees the church before a CIF is prepared.

