

Temporary Pastoral Relationship Types and Information (References are to the *Book of Order*)

G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships

“Temporary pastoral relationships are approved by the presbytery and do not carry a formal call or installation. When a congregation does not have a pastor, or while the pastor is unable to perform her or his duties, the session, with the approval of presbytery, may obtain the services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, candidate, or ruling elder in a temporary pastoral relationship. No formal call shall be issued and no formal installation shall take place.”

“Titles and terms of service for temporary pastoral relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specific period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery. A minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor.”

G-2.0504c Exceptions

“A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting.”

Temporary Pastoral Relationships in the Presbytery of Arkansas

All temporary pastoral relationships require the approval of the COM, and an examination by the appropriate Examinations Subcommittee of the COM. All temporary pastoral relationships are relationships between the session and individual, and there shall not be a congregational vote or installation service. Temporary Pastoral Relationships are approved for twelve months at a time but are renewable, and may be full or part-time, with terms of service established through a covenant/contract approved by the pastor, session, and COM.

Individuals serving in a temporary pastoral relationships may be a:

- Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA)
- A pastor from a Formula of Agreement denomination temporarily received into membership in the Presbytery of Arkansas.
- A ruling elder trained and commissioned as a Commissioned Ruling Elder

- A pastor from another denomination granted specific authority depending on the examination by the Examinations Subcommittee.
- A seminary student or intern prior to ordination, with certain permissions.

Transitional/Interim Pastor - This is a temporary pastoral relationship for use in a congregation seeking a called pastor.

Stated Supply Pastor - This is a temporary pastoral relationship ordinarily used in congregations not seeking a called pastor.

Pulpit Supply - This is an occasional preaching relationship, not always requiring a covenant agreement.

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