

Policy #24
**PASTORS AND STUDENTS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS SERVING OUR
CONGREGATIONS**

COM approval: April 11, 2019

PGA approval: N/A

There are occasions where pastors and students from other denominations may be asked to serve one of our churches. The following outlines the Presbytery's expectations and standards in such situations.

Students:

- In advertising, it would be stated that the preference is for a PCUSA student.
- For non-PCUSA students, there must be some kind of denominational accountability in order for us to do reference checks.
- A Presbytery PGA member would be appointed to serve as the moderator of the session, and to administer the sacraments. (We are reminded that technology would permit session meetings via Zoom, Skype or conference call if needed.)
- A Presbytery member would be asked to serve as a mentor to the person, helping by reviewing of sermons and pastoral responsibilities.

Ordained clergy from denominations with which the PCUSA is in correspondence:

The primary concerns are that COM is responsible to provide leadership who understands the primary theological points of Reformed Theology, which includes our theology around the sacraments, and the basics of Presbyterian Polity. Therefore, in an attempt to balance the needs of our churches to secure pastoral leadership that may not be PCUSA and our responsibility to uphold our theology and polity, the following guidelines shall be utilized:

- Those who would be willing to serve, and who are members of a denomination with which we are in correspondence shall attend a training focused on the areas of theology, sacraments and polity. Elder(s) from the church shall also participate in this training with the pastor.
- The training shall be provided by Presbytery staff or by people whom the staff have secured. The tradition from which the person comes would help to influence the areas of focus. An assessment will be made following the training as to the ability of the pastor to articulate and lead in the Reformed tradition, particularly in administering the sacraments and articulating the broad themes of the Reformed tradition.
- The trained elder(s) shall stand with the pastor for the administering of the sacraments. Additional elders may be recruited by those elders and trained in order to assist the pastor.
- Moderating Session: There is an Authoritative Interpretation (AI) of the Constitution which states that only full-fledged temporary members¹ of Presbytery may moderate session. Therefore, it will be the COM's responsibility to secure a PCUSA moderator in situations where these ministers do not become temporary members of Presbytery. We are reminded that because of technology, it may be easier to secure a PCUSA moderator who may not always be able to be on site but can moderate through electronic means.

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**Ordained clergy from a Formula of Agreement Partner (ELCA, UCC and RCA, Presbyterian
Church of Korea)**

- Pastors from these traditions can equally share each other's pulpits, administer the sacraments and moderate session.
- It will be the responsibility of the consultant to assess the pastor's competence through conversation, and suitability of call interview.