

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 the presbytery, may obtain the services of a teaching elder in a temporary pastoral relationship. In those cases, the interests of the presbytery in the hiring of trained interim pastors by churches within its bounds are established in G-2-05. Furthermore, the session may not secure or dissolve a relationship with an interim pastor or interim co-pastor without the concurrence of the presbytery through its committee on ministry.

The committee on ministry of the Presbytery of Denver, through its experience with pastoral vacancies in many of the presbytery's constituent congregations, has come to place great value on the PC (USA)'s interim pastor training program. The specific interim ministry tasks, which differ substantially from those of installed or designated ministry, require different skills. While some of these skills may be acquired through experience, there are few situations that lend themselves easily to this sort of on-the-job training.

In order to secure the best possible leadership for its congregations, provide its minister members with valuable skills and increase the number of trained interim pastors available to congregations in need of their services, it is the position of the committee on ministry of the Presbytery of Denver that any interim pastor relationship must be with a pastor who has completed at least the first **phase** of the PC(USA)'s interim pastor training program or must include provisions for the completion of same during the first year of the relationship. The **committee on ministry** is also interested in **partnering with those ministers looking to complete the second phase of interim training**. In the case of an interim pastor needing to complete the training, the typical arrangement shall be that the particular church, the interim pastor and the committee on ministry will each pay 1/3 of the cost of the training, including transportation. Interim pastors are encouraged to consider the use of continuing education time and monies for this purpose. **In the case of continuing education monies being used as a funding source, it will be considered the interim pastor's third, as they are part of the compensation already in place between the interim pastor and the particular church.** Interim pastors and particular churches are encouraged to discuss funding with their committee on ministry liaison if such an arrangement would create a financial hardship.

Separate policies on interim ministry include: "Interim Pastor Progress Interview," "Sample Questions for an Interim Pastor Candidate," and "Sample Covenant for Interim Pastor."

In extraordinary circumstances, this policy may be waived by vote of the committee on ministry in order that a specific relationship may be established.