

**Presbytery of East Iowa
Policy on Pastoral Relationships
Approved 7 March 2015**

As allowed by G-2.0504, in approving calls and contracts within the bounds of East Iowa Presbytery, the Presbytery recognizes the following categories of pastoral relationships

- **Permanent, Called and Installed Pastor** as defined by G-20504 and G20504a of the 2013/2015 Book of Order.
- **Permanent, Called and Installed Co-Pastor** as defined by G-20504 and G20504a of the 2013/2015 Book of Order.
- **Temporary Pastoral Relationships** as defined by G-2.0504b and c of the 2013/2015 Book of Order. (This replaces the following temporary pastoral relationship categories: Designated Pastor, Temporary Supply Pastor and Stated Supply Pastor) A person serving in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship shall be termed a "Temporary Pastor." These relationships shall be established by contract between the session of the church to be served and the pastor, may be full or part time, not to exceed one year, and shall be approved by COM before such contracts become effective. Any extension of such contract may be entered into by the session and the pastor and shall be approved by COM before becoming effective. Such approval shall not be granted by COM until after an acceptable performance review of the pastor is conducted by the session, submitted to COM no later than 30 days prior to the end date of the contract and subsequently approved.
- **Intentional Interim Pastor** is not defined in the 2013/2015 Book of Order separately from pastors with a Temporary Pastoral Relationship as in the above paragraph. In the Presbytery of East Iowa, this position is established and is of temporary nature with the same basic responsibilities of a pastor with a temporary pastoral relationship, but with the additional responsibility of intentionally preparing the congregation for next called and installed pastor or co-pastors. This may include identifying and addressing any conflicts that may be present within the church and/or other issues that require attention. Preferably, the person serving in this role should have successfully completed training to serve as an intentional interim pastor as presented by the denomination or its equivalent and should have service experience in an interim ministry setting that includes dealing with conflict. This relationship shall be established by contract between the session of the church to be served and the pastor, may be full or part time, not to exceed one year, and shall be approved by COM before it becomes effective. Any extension of such contract may be entered into by the session and the pastor, and shall be approved by COM before becoming effective. Such approval shall not be granted until after an acceptable performance review of the pastor is conducted by the session, submitted to COM no later than 30 days prior to the end of the contract, and subsequently approved.

- **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)** as defined by G-2.10 of the 2013/2015 Book of Order The PEIA Policy for Preparation and Commissioning of CRE's shall govern the preparation and commissioning of all CRE candidates and commission-eligible ruling elders in the CRE program.

The commissioned ruling elder is a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church (USA), who has passed the requirement stated in the Presbytery's CRE Program documents and who has been commissioned by the Presbytery to serve in a validated ministry of the Presbytery within a specific church or churches or outside any church in accordance with

G-2.1001, G-2.1002 and the Presbytery policy concerning validated ministry This commission is valid only in one or more congregations, new church development, or other validated ministry of the Presbytery designated by the Presbytery.

- **Eligible Ruling Elder (ERE): An Eligible Ruling Elder** is a ruling elder who has met the Presbytery requirements to be commissioned to a validated ministry but is not currently commissioned.
- **Associate Pastor** as defined by G-20504 and G-2.0504a of the 2013/2015 Book of Order.
- **Specialized Ministry:** When teaching elders or Commissioned Ruling Elders are designated as educators, chaplains, pastoral counselors, campus ministers, missionaries, partners in mission, evangelists, administrators, social workers, consultants, or in other specific tasks appropriate to the ministry of the church, they shall evidence a quality of life which helps to share the ministry of the good news. They shall exercise pastoral care of those for whom they are responsible and shall seek to fulfill their ministry by serving Christ and their fellow men and women, strengthening the church and equipping it for concern and service to the life of the human community. In addition to fulfilling the particular responsibilities to which they are called, they shall participate in a congregation, in their presbytery, and in ecumenical relationships, and shall be eligible for election to the higher governing bodies of the church and to the boards and agencies of those governing bodies. These employed positions shall be approved by COM, on behalf of the presbytery, and COM shall exercise oversight of these positions. These positions shall be vocationally demonstrated to meet the PEIA Policy for Validated Ministry prior to their approval.

Any call or contract involving a permanent or temporary pastoral relationship, Commission Ruling Elder or person involved in a specialized ministry shall be approved only to a Validated Ministry. Validated Ministries include calls and contracts of pastoral relationship as listed above and other ministries as defined in G-2.0503 and G-2.1001 of the current Book of Order and PEIA Policy for Validated Ministry.