

Designated pastors

A designated pastor or co-pastor is a minister elected for a term of not fewer than two nor more than four years by the vote of the congregation. A designated pastor is chosen by the congregation's pastor nominating committee only from among those designated by the committee on ministry of the presbytery. A designated pastor is installed by the presbytery for the agreed term and then, if the congregation and pastor both desire, may be eligible to be installed as pastor after two or more years have elapsed. (G-14.0520-.0523)

Churches that might benefit from having a designated pastor

Congregations go through life-cycles and critical events much as people do. When a congregation is experiencing a significant opportunity for new direction, a major trauma or unusually difficult transition, a designated pastor may be able to provide the kind of leadership needed. Among the times when a COM might suggest a designated pastor are:

- When a congregation is engaged in transformation.
- When a congregation has been wounded by conflict or by a "revolving door" in the pastor's office through which a number of pastors have come and gone in a relatively few years.
- When congregations are considering engaging in shared ministry.
- When a congregation can benefit from a different pastoral leadership style.
- During a transition time, as when a founding pastor has left a new church development.

Pastors who might consider becoming a designated pastor

The work of a designated pastor is often quite challenging. Those who would appropriately consider such a call are:

- Persons who enjoy a difficult challenge.
- Persons who have skills and interest in congregational transformation.
- Persons who need to live within a certain area.

Pastors that a COM would choose to recommend to a congregation as a designated pastor should be:

- able to serve effectively when properly matched to a position.
- healthy spiritually, physically and mentally.

Source: COM Advisory Handbook, Section 5, Page 18