

Presbytery of San José

POLICY: TENTMAKING MINISTRY

Policy Statement

The Presbytery of San Jose affirms the viability of tentmaking ministry as an option to certain unique congregations. A tentmaker minister is “a clergy-person who divides the working hours between two or more paid positions, one in service to the church, and the other in some other income producing activity.” (PCUSA Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers Manual, pg. 5)

Rationale

Tentmaking enables smaller churches and churches with limited assets to have the services of Ministers of the Word and Sacrament that might otherwise be unavailable.

Committee on Ministry Responsibilities

COM shall:

1. Assist the church in determining the appropriateness of a tentmaking ministry.
2. Assist the calling body in defining the tentmaker position description, which should include the units of time required to fulfill the call.
3. Approve terms of call for tentmaker minister in accordance with minimum salary requirements of San Jose Presbytery.
4. Counsel with tentmaker minister and calling body concerning the distribution/ allocation of time to be spent in service to the calling body, the other occupation, and service to the presbytery or other governing body.
5. Provide annual evaluation of the tentmaker arrangement.
6. Provide support for tentmaker in the initial arrangements for a call and ongoing support (i.e., counsel and advice regarding career development, vocational choices, continuing education opportunities, and related interests of tentmaker ministers.)

Minister Responsibilities

Tentmaker ministers shall make available to the calling body and to COM a description of the alternate position and the allocation of time to each paid position.

Session Responsibilities

The session of a church shall :

1. Counsel with COM to determine the appropriateness of a tentmaking ministry.
2. On behalf of the congregation, ensure that the terms of call are reasonable and negotiable.
3. Provide COM with a position description, including time requirements.

See Additional Responsibilities/Information.

Additional Responsibilities/Information

Any body extending a call to a tentmaker minister shall bear the same responsibilities as a session (congregation).

Resources: PCUSA Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers Manual
 Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers
 Association of Presbyterian Tentmakers Newsletter "Tent Talk"