

## **Presbytery of San Jose**

### **POLICY: MINISTERS NOT INSTALLED OR OFFICIALLY RELATED TO A PARTICULAR CHURCH**

#### **Policy Statement**

Ministers who are not installed or officially related to a particular church shall respect the position of the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Interim Pastor or Stated Supply regarding all ministerial functions within that church community.

#### **Rationale**

It is vital that ministers who are not officially related to a particular church perform ministerial functions only under the guidance of COM and/or with the concurrence of the installed pastor of the church(es) involved.

“Members-at-large and inactive members remain under the care, oversight, and discipline of the presbytery” (G-11.0413).

“Every request by a minister or candidate for the presbytery’s approval of a task appropriate to the ministry, though not a pastoral relationship to a particular church, shall be made by the minister or candidate through the committee (COM) and shall be reported by it to the presbytery with recommendation for presbytery’s action” (G-11.0502b).

#### **Committee on Ministry Responsibilities**

COM shall annually review both the status and activity of ministers not installed or officially related to a particular church and will present their ministry requests to the presbytery. COM will encourage the effective ministry of a particular church and support the authority and responsibilities of its called installed pastor(s).

#### **Minister Responsibilities**

Ministers not installed in a particular church shall: officiate at weddings and funerals only when an invitation has been issued by the pastor of the church involved; administer the sacraments only at the request of the pastor, the church’s session, or by permission of presbytery; not counsel with or advise members of congregations concerning problems in their respective churches except when on official presbytery business.

#### **Session Responsibilities**

In the event of any incident, the Session is encouraged to make written contact and counsel with COM.

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**Additional Responsibilities/Information**      N/A