

Presbytery of San José

POLICY: THE USE OF THE TITLE “MINISTER”

Policy Statement

The Presbytery of San Jose, having due concern for the proper use of the title “minister”, requires all its member churches to use the title “minister” as a part of a person’s name only when the person is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA).

Rationale

Preparation for the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament is carefully described in the Book of Order of the PCUSA (G-14.0300). Ordination of a person to that office is regulated by the church (G-14.0400). Ordained Ministers are members of a presbytery and accountable to it (G-6.0200).

The PCUSA recognizes that all Christians are ministers to other persons. However, the title “minister” is commonly accepted as the designation of a person who has been properly prepared and ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. The use of the title “minister” in conjunction with a person’s name can create confusion. Persons may be led to believe that the title “minister” authorizes a person to perform services that are specifically reserved for a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Furthermore, the improper use of the title “minister” could possibly cause the church to be liable in legal actions.

Committee on Ministry Responsibilities

COM shall disseminate the policy and inform churches of its proper use.

Minister Responsibilities

Ministers shall be aware and inform Session of the implications of the policy.

Session Responsibilities

Session shall comply with this policy, particularly in the use of the printed title “minister” on such publications as church stationery, programs, bulletins, newsletters or any other publications.

Additional Responsibilities/Information

N/A