

3a. Pastoral Relations Committee

Pastoral Relations Committee Objectives:

- To aid in the reconciling of differences between the congregation and the pastoral staff, and among members of the pastoral staff
- To provide a listening ear for the pastoral staff and a place for the pastors to be able to express feelings, concerns and ideas
- To share with the pastoral staff any needs and concerns of the congregation

Meetings and availability

The ability of the pastoral relations committee to foster good relations depends on its ability to share information between the pastors and the congregation. Names and phone numbers of committee members should be printed in the church newsletter several times a year so that members of the congregation feel welcome to share with committee members.

The Pastoral Relations Committee will not expect to deal with anonymous comments since they are not conducive to communication and reconciliation. If someone in the church feels strongly about a position but does not wish to come forward, they will be referred to the Personnel Committee.

The committee and pastors should have scheduled meetings, perhaps quarterly, depending on the needs of the pastors and congregation.

Individual members of the pastoral relations committee should, on occasion, meet with a pastor to offer encouragement and support.

Nomination Process

Stakeholders will call the nominees and explain the responsibilities and time commitment required of committee members. After the executive committee finds four candidates willing to serve on the pastoral relations committee, it will bring them forward to church council for approval. Past or current members may be invited back via this process with no limit on the number of terms allowed.

It is expected that committee members will attend at least one training session in the first year of their terms.

Membership qualifications

- Christian character commanding respect and admiration of the congregation and pastor
- Maturity
- Patience and flexibility
- Vital interest in the life of the church
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Ability to appreciate different points of view
- Ability to negotiate and reconcile differences
- Availability for listening to church members
- Trustworthiness
- Willingness to learn how to be effective in this ministry