

CONSENT DOCKET

September 15, 2011

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

The CPM has met three times since the last regular meeting of the Presbytery, with a quorum present. In accordance with action taken, CPM recommends the following:

That presbytery approve the following to be readers for the ordination exams: Elder Ed Bush, Rev. Geoff Pfaff, Elder Chuck Wakamoto, and Rev. Jeff McCrory as alternate.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The COM has met four times since the last regular meeting of the Presbytery, with a quorum present. In accordance with action taken, COM recommends the following:

Moved: That Presbytery approve the “Guidelines for Designated and Interim Pastors” prepared by the COM—and include them as a Presbytery Policy.

Rationale: With the approval of New Form Of Government, the only categories for teaching elders in churches are pastor, Associate Pastor, Designated Pastor and “Temporary” Pastor. COM has taken the language from previous form of government regarding Designated and Interim Pastors, supplemented the wording with description for Intentional Interim and First Responder Interim, and provided a definition to guide COM in determining the correct category of call for individuals.

PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS GUIDELINES FOR “DESIGNATED PASTORS” AND “INTERIM MINISTRIES”

The Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, as a result of the adoption of a revised *Form of Government*, recommends that the Presbytery adopt the following as the first in a series of guidelines that will become part of the “Manual” governing the functions set forth in the *Form of Government* regarding the relationship between the presbytery, congregations, and teaching elders.

DESIGNATED PASTORS:

1. A “Designated Pastoral Relationship”, full or part-time, pastor or associate pastor, is a call to a Teaching Elder to a position established by the presbytery of a term of not less than two nor more than four years. The congregation and minister must both have agreed to be considered for a designated pastoral relationship. A congregational “Pastor Nominating Committee” shall nominate to the congregation for its consideration and vote, a minister only from among those ministers designated to it by the presbytery through the Presbytery Pastor. A Designated Pastor is installed by the presbytery and is a member of the session. An Intentional Interim may not become the Designated Pastor or Designated Associate Pastor of a congregation they have served within the past three years.
2. The call is renewable anytime after the second year for periods of not more than 12 months. The terms of call may not be changed except by consent of the presbytery. If not called as installed pastor after 3 ½ years, the relationship shall be terminated at the end of the contract then in place.
3. If there was an open search process in calling the Designated Pastor (#1), after at least two years, and with the concurrence of the presbytery’s delegated committee, the pastor and session, acting as the pastor nominating committee solely for the purpose of calling the designated pastor as pastor, a congregational meeting may be called to vote on that recommendation. If the congregational action is affirmative, the presbytery shall act on a request to approve the new pastoral relationship and shall install the designated pastor as Pastor or Associate Pastor.

In Summary:

1. COM must approve the position.
2. A congregation must vote to agree to participate in this type pastoral relationship.
3. The Designated Pastor is nominated by a Pastor Nominating Committee elected by the

congregation.

4. The Pastor Nominating Committee considers ONLY those applicants designated by the Presbytery Pastor. The pastors on the list must agree to be considered for a Designated Pastor position.
5. The congregation elects the Designated Pastor for a term of not less than two years nor more than four years.
6. The Designated Pastor is installed by presbytery and is moderator of the Session.
7. An Interim or Stated Supply Pastor serving the congregation is not eligible for consideration as the Designated Pastor.
8. After at least two years of service, the Designated Pastor may be recommended (by Session) to become the next installed pastor. Session and Presbytery may also continue the Designated Pastor relationship up to 4 years with a clear understanding that the individual will not be called as the Installed pastor.
9. If the call is terminated before the end of four years, then the usual dissolution procedures for an Installed Pastor shall be followed.

TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS AND INTENTIONAL INTERIMS

Recognizing that there are different roles and tasks to be undertaken in different Temporary Pastor Relationships, the Presbytery of Los Ranchos affirms the creation of the following “Temporary Pastoral Relationships” G-2.0504b.

“Intentional Interim” An Intentional Interim is called by the session to serve as pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor when the congregation is without an installed pastor. An Intentional Interim relationship may not be established or dissolved without concurrence of the presbytery. Intentional Interims must have Interim Pastor Certification (or obtain such during their first year of service). Intentional Interims are contracted to guide the congregation in engaging in those tasks necessary to equip and enable the congregation to welcome their next installed pastor. The Intentional Interim’s contract is for up to 12 months, is renewable with approval of presbytery, and shall include provision for financial support at the conclusion of their service. **Intentional Interims may not, under any circumstances, be considered as the next installed pastor of the church they are serving.**

Temporary Interim Pastors. With the approval of Presbytery, Session may contract with individuals (teaching elders, candidate or ruling elder) to serve as a Temporary Interim Pastor, Associate Pastor, or Co-Pastor or as a First Responder. (Short term pastorate in “stressful” situation until Intentional Interim can be called.) Normally, these calls will be to a position in which there are not the “transitional issues” that require an Intentional Interim. (e.g. Associate positions or following an extended Intentional Interim, when pastor is temporarily unable to perform pastoral functions, or as a “bridge” until an Intentional Interim can be called, etc) Interim contracts are for up to one year, may be renewed with the approval of presbytery, and may or may not include provisions for support at the conclusion of their service. Following twenty four consecutive months as an interim, a teaching elder or certified ruling elder may be considered for the installed pastor position, subject to the provisions of G-2.0504c.

Supply Pastors. Supply pastors serve congregations in which there is no active search for an installed pastor. (e.g. there is no pastor nominating committee in place, the church is not paying vacancy dues for a pastoral position, and the congregation does not anticipate calling a pastor to an installed position). Supply Pastors are appointed by presbytery in consultation with the session, and their services shall be governed by a contract of not more than 12 months at a time, renewable with the approval of the presbytery. Normally, they will serve as Moderator of the session and congregation. If the congregation votes to create an installed position, the Supply Pastor shall be governed by the provisions of G-2.0504c.

First Responder: A form of Temporary Interim. These are trained Interim Pastors who have taken advanced work to become “First Responders.” They may be used: 1) between departure of installed pastor and arrival of contracted Intentional Interim; 2) while a pastor is on leave—for medical, study, or other reasons; 3) following sudden death or chronic illness of pastor. The defining nature of this position is that it shall be for no more than four months—and may not be extended beyond six months.

TRUSTEES:

Moved: That the presbytery approve the merger of Orange Canaan Presbyterian Church and Orange Korean United Church effective June 1, 2011.