

Church Educators Grace Presbytery

Advocacy and Support

- Grace Presbytery has had a long history of support of church educators.
- The Presbytery's Standing Rules provides the privilege of the floor for church educators.
- The presbytery has been "on record" as exercising pastoral care and support (prior to the Book of Order amendment G-14.0700) by encouraging the inclusion in the terms of call for continuing education (both time and financial support) and providing for pastoral oversight.
- Educators are included in all presbytery mailings and receive presbytery packets in advance of each stated meeting.
- The attendance registration process at presbytery includes church educators as an identifiable group.
- The presbytery has voted at every opportunity in favor of an ordination process for church educators.
- Certified Christian Educators and Associate Certified Educators who are ordained elders have voice and vote at presbytery meetings.
- Grace Presbytery urges churches calling church educators to utilize the salary and benefit guidelines for Certified Christian Educators, which matches the minimum salary and benefit guidelines for first-year ordained ministers.

Presbytery Staff Role

- The Associate Presbyter for Services to Congregations in close conjunction with the Director of Educational Support provides pastoral care for church educators.
- The Director of Educational Support oversees the certification process for educators in Grace Presbytery and provides guidance and support while church educators are engaged in the certification process.
- The Director of Educational Support and the Associate Presbyter for Services to Congregations jointly serve as staff support for the quarterly Educator Gatherings held throughout the year.

- Both the Associate Presbytery for Services to Congregations and the Director of Educational Support provide information to the Committee on Ministry regarding educator vacancies.

Committee on Ministry

In response to the Book of Order ruling regarding access to the Committee on Ministry, a procedure describing COM's relationship to church educators was added to its Standing Rules.

The presbytery in March 1988 directed the COM to:

Annually publish the names, employment status and terms of call of all Certified Educators known to be in the bounds of the presbytery.

Annually convene a consultation of Certified Educators and for those employed as educators, to include their supervisor and a member of the Personnel Committee to consider mutual concerns.

Include interviews with Certified Educators in all formal visits and work with congregations, especially in those situations in which the head of staff position has become vacant.

Conduct exit interviews with every Certified Educator on the termination of their position.

On each agenda of the Committee on Ministry, the item: Churches' Needs, Requests, Concerns includes a listing of churches seeking Educators (ordained and non-ordained).

Terms of Call and changes in terms are reported to COM. The compensation Committee is assigned to recommend minimum terms of call for church educators.

A liaison from COM is assigned to assist churches in their search for an educator by helping them develop a position description and a Church Information Form. This liaison also contacts the newly called educator 6 months into their call to provide support and to assure that all is going well for the educator in their new position.

COM recognizes on the floor of presbytery with a charge and a prayer, educators who have completed the Certification process.

Summary

Church Educators are highly valued and respected within Grace Presbytery. They are a strong and cohesive group that provides innumerable benefits to the congregations of Grace Presbytery through their knowledge of Christian Education and their leadership skills.