

The Role and relationship of a pastor / associate pastor after the official Pastoral relationship is dissolved:

The Book of Order (G-14.0606) as well as standard ministerial ethics and established protocol state that a minister does not perform any pastoral or ministerial functions for members of a former congregation except upon invitation from the current pastor, interim pastor, moderator and / or clerk of the session.

This does not infer in any way that genuine caring and supportive relationships, developed during the many years of shared ministry, may not be continued as very real and lasting friendships. However, a clear understanding of acceptance of the role of the former pastor as a friend, not a pastor, is essential on the part of the congregation as well as the former pastor.