

## **THE *MINISTRY* OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

**G-11.0501a.** The Book of Order identifies the 3 primary functions of the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry as follows:

- to **serve** as pastor and counselor to the ministers and Certified Christian Educators of the presbytery,
- to **facilitate** the relations between congregations, ministers, and Certified Christian Educators, and the presbytery, and
- to **settle** difficulties on behalf of presbytery when possible and expedient.

(While all 3 are important, the greatest amount of time focuses on the second of the three)

The Book of Order also lists specific responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry. Read each area of COM responsibility listed in the Book of Order beginning with G-11.0502a – G-11.0502j. and G-11.0503. Use the chart below to reflect upon each responsibility in light of COM’s 3 functions.

Evaluate who on your COM carries out this responsibility and how they do so. Brainstorm ways your COM could carryout this responsibility more effectively.

<b>G-11.0502a.</b> It shall visit regularly and consult with each minister of the presbytery. It shall report to the presbytery annually the type of work in which each minister of the presbytery is engaged. It shall require an annual report from every minister performing work which is not under the jurisdiction of the presbytery or a higher governing body of the church.		
<b>Focus of G-11.0502a.</b> 1. Serve as pastor, counselor 2. Facilitate relationships 3. Settle disputes	<b>Who does this and how? (people and process)</b> <b>How effectively is the primary focus accomplished?</b>	<b>Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.</b>

**G-11.0502b.**

It shall make recommendations to presbytery regarding calls for the services of its ministers. Every call for the services of a minister or candidate in a pastoral relationship shall be placed in its hands and presented by it to the presbytery, with a report as to the call being in order and recommendation as to whether the call shall be placed in the hands of the minister or candidate. Every request by a minister or candidate for the presbytery's approval of a task appropriate to the ministry, though not a pastoral relationship to a particular church, shall be made by the minister or candidate through the committee and shall be reported by it to the presbytery with recommendation for presbytery's action.

<b>Focus of G-11.0502b.</b> <b>1. Serve as pastor, counselor</b> <b>2. Facilitate relationships</b> <b>3. Settle disputes</b>	<b>How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?</b>	<b>Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.</b>
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**G-11.0502c.**

It shall visit with each session of the presbytery at least once every three years, discussing with them the mission and ministry of the particular church and encouraging the full participation of each session and congregation in the life and work of presbytery and of the larger church.  
(W-1.4002)

**Focus of G-11.0502c.**

- 1. Serve as pastor counselor**
- 2. Facilitate relationships**
- 3. Settle disputes**

**How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?**

**Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.**

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**G-11.0502d.**

It shall counsel with churches regarding calls for permanent pastoral relations, visiting and counseling with every committee elected to nominate a pastor or associate pastor. It shall advise with the committee regarding the merits, availability, and suitability of any candidate or minister whose name is contemplated for nomination to the congregation, and shall have the privilege of suggesting names to the committee. No call to a permanent pastoral relationship shall be in order for consideration by the presbytery unless the church has received and considered the committee's counsel before action is taken to issue a call. (G-14.0502) A call to a permanent pastoral relationship shall not be issued until it has been approved by the presbytery. In the case of a church receiving aid in supporting a pastor, it shall confer with both the church and that agency of presbytery charged with arranging such aid before it shall recommend to the presbytery that a call to such a church be placed in the hands of a minister. The proper agency of the presbytery shall present to the committee a statement of the presbytery's anticipated support of a pastor, which shall be attached to the call of the church.

**Focus of G-11.0502d.**

- 1. Serve as pastor, counselor**
- 2. Facilitate relationships**
- 3. Settle disputes**

**How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?**

**Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.**

**G-11.0502e.**

It shall counsel with churches regarding the advisability of calling a designated pastor as defined in G-14.0501.

<b>Focus of G-11.0502e.</b> <b>1. Serve as pastor, counselor</b> <b>2. Facilitate relationships</b> <b>3. Settle disputes</b>	<b>How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?</b>	<b>Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.</b>

**G-11.0502f.**

It shall counsel with sessions regarding stated supplies, interim pastors, interim co-pastors, or interim associate pastors, and temporary supplies when a church is without a pastor, and it shall provide lists of pastors, commissioned lay pastors, and qualified lay persons who have been trained and commissioned by the presbytery to supply vacant pulpits. Concurrence of the presbytery through its committee on ministry is required when a session invites an interim pastor, interim co-pastor, or interim associate pastor as provided for in G-14.0513b and G-14.0513c.

**Focus of G-11.0502f.**  
**1. Serve as pastor, counselor**  
**2. Facilitate relationships**  
**3. Settle disputes**

**How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?**

**Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.**

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**G-11.0502g**

It shall provide for the implementation of equal opportunity employment for ministers and candidates without regard to race, ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, or disability. In the case of each call, it shall report to the presbytery the steps in this implementation taken by the calling group.

**Focus of G-11.0502g.**  
**1. Serve as pastor, counselor**  
**2. Facilitate relationships**  
**3. Settle disputes**

**How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?**

**Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.**

**G-11.0502h.**

It may be given authority by the presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for services of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other presbyteries required by G-11.0402, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and pastor concur, to grant permission to labor within or outside the bounds of the presbytery, and to dismiss ministers to other presbyteries, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery. (G-9.0403, G-14.0507)

<b>Focus of G-11.0502h.</b> <b>1. Serve as pastor, counselor</b> <b>2. Facilitate relationships</b> <b>3. Settle disputes</b>	<b>How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?</b>	<b>Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.</b>

**G-11.0502i.**

It shall serve as an instrument of presbytery for promoting the peace and harmony of the churches, especially in regard to matters arising out of the relations between ministers and churches. Its purpose shall be to mediate differences and reconcile persons, to the end that the difficulties may be corrected by the session of the church if possible, that the welfare of the particular church may be strengthened, that the unity of the body of Christ may be made manifest.

**Focus of G-11.0502i.**

- 1. Serve as pastor, counselor**
- 2. Facilitate relationships**
- 3. Settle disputes**

**How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?**

**Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.**

**G-11.0502j.**

It shall exercise wise discretion in determining when to take cognizance of information concerning difficulties within a church, proceeding with the following steps:

- (1) It may take the initiative to bring the information which has come to it to the attention of the session of the church involved, counseling with the session as to the appropriate actions to be taken in correcting the reported difficulties.
- (2) It may offer its help as a mediator in case the session either finds itself unable to settle the problems peaceably or takes no steps toward settlement.
- (3) It may act to correct the difficulties if requested to do so by the parties concerned, or if this authority is granted by the presbytery for the specific case. When so doing, the committee shall always hold hearings which afford procedural safeguards as in cases of process, following the procedures outlined in the Rules of Discipline.

<b>Focus of G-11.0502j.</b> <b>1. Serve as pastor, counselor</b> <b>2. Facilitate relationships</b> <b>3. Settle disputes</b>	<b>How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?</b>	<b>Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.</b>

**G-11.0503**

Open Communication

The committee shall be open to communication at all times with the ministers, elders who are members of sessions, sessions of the presbytery, and Certified Christian Educators within the bounds of the presbytery.

<b>Focus of G-11.0503</b> 1. Serve as pastor, counselor 2. Facilitate relationships 3. Settle disputes	<b>How does your committee perform this responsibility? Has a subcommittee been created and what are its duties?</b>	<b>Identify ways your COM can become more proactive in carrying out this responsibility. Identify tools available to accomplish this task.</b>