

#### **4.400 COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY: COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, CONFLICT**

##### **4.401 Response to Churches and Ministers in Conflict**

- A. It is the job of “the Committee on Ministry to serve as pastor and counselor to the ministers of the Presbytery” and “to facilitate the relations between congregations, ministers and the Presbytery...” (Book of Order G-11.0501a). The Committee on Ministry shall also serve as an Instrument of the 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” (G-11.0502.i).
- B. To meet this goal it is the policy of the Committee on Ministry of The Presbytery of Northern Waters to do the following:
  1. When a member or members of a congregation contact the Presbytery Office or their COM Area Representative with a concern regarding their minister, the following ordered steps shall be taken (except in the event of an accusation of Sexual Misconduct which procedure is referenced at Manual of Operations 4.930):
    - a. Members of congregations will be counseled to share their concerns with members of the local church Personnel Committee and/or members of their church session (G-11.0502.j.3).
    - b. Within 1 month, the COM Area Representative will make a follow-up contact with the Clerk of Session to establish whether the concerns have been shared and considered.
    - c. If the same member(s) subsequently contact the Presbytery with continuing concerns, a meeting may be organized, stipulating in advance who from the Presbytery and who from the church will attend.
    - d. At this meeting, the COM-appointed representatives of the Presbytery will listen to the concerns of the church members and offer suggestions or advice, as appropriate.
    - e. A report stating the church member(s)’ concerns and the Presbytery’s suggestions will be distributed to each person in attendance at the meeting and a copy sent to the Clerk of Session.
    - f. Within 1 month, the COM Area Representative will make a follow-up contact with the minister to establish whether the concerns have been shared and considered.

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2. The Committee on Ministry of this Presbytery reserves the right to bring the information which it has received to the attention of the session or the minister of the church involved, counseling with the session and/or the ministers as to the appropriate actions to be taken in responding to the reported difficulties (G-1.0502.j.1).
3. Should further action be necessary, the Committee on Ministry will make every attempt to follow the procedural guidelines as outlined in the Book of Order in G-11.0502.j.3.