

**4.900 COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY: COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

**4.902 Policy and Procedures on Triennial Visits**

- A. Statement of Purpose/Mission: The Committee on Ministry (COM) feels it is extremely important to understand that Triennial visits, while mandated, are to be pastoral and not deal with conflict. The intention is to foster a closer relationship between the churches, the Presbytery, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- B. The basis for our mandate is: The Book of Order reference is G-11.0502c as well as W-1.4002 in the Directory of Worship.
- C. The two key points in the Book of Order are:
  - 1. A discussion of the mission and ministry of the particular church; and
  - 2. Encouraging full participation in the life and work of the Presbytery.
- D. The Directory of Worship adds this element: A discussion of the quality of worship, the standards governing it and the fruit it is bearing in the life of God's people.
- E. Who makes the visits? The two area representatives with the option of other persons should the need arise.
- F. Meetings to be held, the concept is three meetings, normally these are held on the same day (the order is left to the discretion of the visitors):
  - 1. With the session without the minister;
  - 2. The minister with the session; and
  - 3. The minister alone.
- G. Preparation for the visit/meetings: Obtain a copy of the annual report, newsletters, and bulletins. Through the COM, there is certainly a "feel" for the extent of involvement with the Presbytery. Also, the most recent report of the church minutes can be helpful. The area reps might wish to take turns being the team leader for visits.