

Ministerial Relations Committee - Guidelines

Purpose: The purpose of the Ministerial Relations Committee shall be to support and maintain an open relationship between the ordained ministerial staff and members of the congregation

Composition: This committee shall be composed of five members from the congregation appointed by the Church Council for 2-year staggered terms. An attempt will be made to reflect the make-up of the congregation in the committee appointments. The Committee shall appoint the chairperson at its June meeting.

Procedures

1. The term of committee members shall be from May through April two years later. Members of the committee may be reappointed but shall not serve for more than 3 successive terms.
2. The committee shall meet a minimum of 4 times per year. Meetings of the committee shall be convened by the chairperson or a member of the ordained ministerial staff.
3. At the first meeting, a recording secretary shall be selected.

Responsibilities

General

To support and maintain an open relationship between the ordained ministers and members of the congregation.

Communication

1. To discuss mutual expectations of the ordained ministerial staff and congregation.
2. To work for clear communication and understanding between the congregation and ordained ministerial staff. See addendum: "Process for Providing Feedback."
3. To listen to individuals or groups in the church regarding the relationship between the ordained ministerial staff and congregation.
4. To communicate openly and honestly the feelings and reactions of church members to the ordained ministerial staff.

Needs of the Ordained Ministerial Staff

1. To discuss ministry result areas with the ordained ministerial staff.
2. To encourage the ordained ministerial staff to plan time for recreation, exercise, relaxation, family, and solitude.
3. To provide an opportunity for the ordained ministerial staff to reflect in confidence about personal concerns, hopes, ambitions, and frustrations.

Support of Ordained Ministerial Staff

1. To help define areas of potential conflict between ordained staff's ministries and those of the congregation and to assist in developing alternative solutions. See addendum: "Process for Providing Feedback."
2. To be alert to the ordained ministerial staff's concerns between meetings.
3. To support the ordained ministerial staff's ministry beyond the local church.
4. To demonstrate concern and support for the ordained ministerial staff's families.
5. To plan celebrations of personal and professional milestones.

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