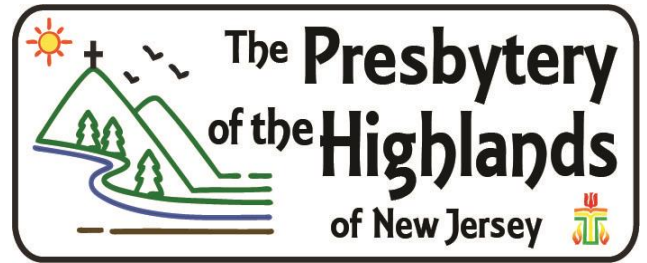


Addendum and clarification to the Ethics Policy for the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey Section II, 4. *Avoid conflicts of interest that might compromise the effectiveness of my ministry.*



Our Presbyterian polity is built on a foundation of underlying trust. Our Book of Order states:

*G-1.0102 The Fellowship of the Congregation The polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presupposes the fellowship of women, men, and children united in covenant relationship with one another and with God through Jesus Christ. The organization rests on the fellowship and is not designed to work without trust and love.*

Elected members and appointed resource staff persons, in their election or appointment, are trusted to uphold the expectations of the presbytery; the presbytery affirms its trust and expectation that each member will follow their conscience and act in accordance with the scripture, the Book of Order, and their best discernment of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Presbytery, therefore, instructs all persons called to ministry within the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey “to conduct all matters so that conflict of interest and exploitation are avoided.”<sup>1</sup>

Members shall avoid conflicts of interest, potential conflicts of interest, and situations that give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest exists when a person in a decision-making process has an interest, direct or indirect, that could reasonably be expected to compromise their judgement, decisions, or actions. Any concern regarding conflict of interest may be directed to the moderator of the group to which they are involved, or the presbytery stated clerk.

It is proposed that “one should abstain from voting in any matter where s/he has direct personal interest not common to the rest of the assemblage.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky Standards of Ethical Conduct, paragraph 2.

<sup>2</sup> Roberts Rules of Order, 45.4