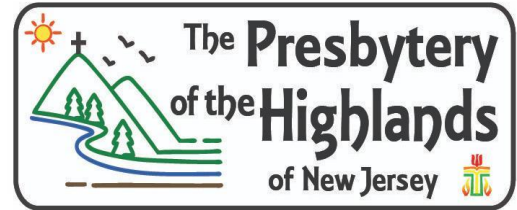


Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey



Position Description for Commission on Ministry Members

Introduction

Members of the Commission on Ministry (COM) play a vital role in supporting the health and vitality of congregations and pastoral leaders across the Presbytery of the Highlands. COM members serve as representatives of the Presbytery and work closely with pastors, sessions, and congregations to guide and sustain ministry.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Commission on Ministry is to provide oversight, care, and support for congregations and pastoral leadership, particularly during times of transition. COM members ensure that churches are nurtured in their mission and that pastoral relationships are healthy and faithful to the values of our Reformed tradition.

Responsibilities and Expectations

1. **Eligibility:** Must be a Minister of Word and Sacrament or a ruling elder from a congregation within the Presbytery of the Highlands.
2. **Meeting Attendance:** Attend monthly COM meetings, as well as additional meetings when necessary.
3. **Team Participation:** Serve actively on one of the COM's working teams.
4. **Church Oversight:** Maintain consistent contact with assigned churches and provide support as needed, including assuming special assignments from the COM.
5. **Congregational Support:** Collaborate with pastors and sessions to help strengthen the life and ministry of assigned congregations.

6. **Candidate Examinations:** Assist in examining candidates for pastoral positions within assigned churches and as requested by COM.
7. **Pastoral Transitions:** Support congregations and their pastoral nominating committees (PNCs) during pastoral transitions, offering guidance and resources.
8. **Exit Interviews:** Participate in conducting exit interviews with pastors and sessions when a pastoral relationship is dissolved.
9. **Conflict Mediation Referrals:** Notify the COM moderator if a situation in an assigned church may require the involvement of the Mediation Team.
10. **Training:** Attend training events sponsored by the COM, including the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop and other continuing education opportunities.