

**THE USE OF THE TITLE “MINISTER”**

**I. Policy Statement**

The Presbytery of San Jose, having due concern for the proper use of the title “minister”, requires all its member churches to use the title “minister” as a part of a person’s name only when the person is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

**II. Rationale**

Preparation for the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament is carefully described in the Book of Order of the PC(USA). Ordination of a person to that office is regulated by the church. Ordained Ministers are members of a presbytery and accountable to it.

The PC(USA) recognizes that all Christians are ministers to other persons. However, the title “minister” is commonly accepted as the designation of a person who has been properly prepared and ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. The use of the title “minister” in conjunction with a person’s name can create confusion. Persons may be led to believe that the title “minister” authorizes a person to perform services that are specifically reserved for a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Furthermore, the improper use of the title “minister” could possibly cause the church to be liable in legal actions.

**III. Responsibilities**

**A. Committee on Ministry (COM) Responsibilities**

COM shall disseminate the policy and inform churches of its proper use.

**B. Minister Responsibilities**

Ministers shall be aware and inform Session of the implications of the policy.

**C. Session Responsibilities**

Session shall comply with this policy, particularly in the use of the printed title “minister” on such publications as church stationery, programs, bulletins, newsletters or any other publications.

**D. E. Additional Responsibilities/Information**

N/A