

PRESBYTERY'S RELATIONSHIP TO ITS RETIRED MINISTERS

I. Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Presbytery of San Jose that its retired ministers shall receive all possible loving care, encouragement, nurture, and support.

II. Rationale

After serving Christ and His Church faithfully and well, those who have now retired from active service deserve the loving concern of their presbytery. Presbytery is, in fact, the only church membership they presently have, and those honorably retired in the presbytery represent a large and rich resource of experience and wisdom upon which presbytery may draw, as mutually desirable.

III. Responsibilities

A. Committee on Ministry (COM) Responsibilities

Through its Support Subcommittee, COM shall:

1. Assist and advise retiring ministers through their period of transition;
2. Develop opportunities for continuing, part-time ministry to offer to the retired members of presbytery to best utilize their training, gifts, and desires. (See Additional Responsibilities/Information.)
3. Communicate at least annually with all retired ministers and their spouses to assure them of the continuing care and concern of their presbytery and to solicit any personal needs.
4. Receive an annual report from retirees on their status and ministry opportunities.

B. Minister Responsibilities

Honorably Retired ministers should:

1. Treat with great sensitivity all relationships with those in congregations they have served in this presbytery. They must remember that another now serves those people as their pastor. (Refer to Presbytery Policy PT-2, *Relationship Between Congregations and Former Pastors*.)
2. Inform COM of the extent of their desire, or non-desire, to find a place of active service within this presbytery. (Refer to Presbytery Policy HR-1, *The Receipt of Honorably Retired Ministers*.)
3. Inform COM of any special personal needs they may currently be facing so that the presbytery may have an opportunity to respond as appropriate.

C. Additional Responsibilities/Information

Among possible ministry outlets for retired ministers within this presbytery are service:

- as a Parish Associate within a congregation,
- as an Interim Pastor,
- as a Pulpit Supply,
- in the Pastor-to-Pastor program,
- as a mentor to a young minister,
- in the refugee resettlement program,
- as a teacher of English as a Second Language program, or
- on committees/boards of the Presbytery of San Jose.