

PARISH ASSOCIATES

I. Policy Statement

The Presbytery of San José recognizes the position of Parish Associate as a-ministry for its members and in keeping with their ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

II. Rationale

Teaching elders already qualified as continuing members of this presbytery may serve as parish associates. A parish associate may be a teaching elder who serves in a validated ministry other than the local parish, a member-at-large, or be retired, but who wishes to maintain a formal relationship with a particular church or churches.

III. Responsibilities

A. Minister Responsibilities

The parish associate relationship shall be established, upon invitation by the pastor, between the parish associate, the session, and the presbytery. The pastor of the congregation may be serving as either the called or temporary head of staff. The Parish Associate serves at the pleasure of the pastor.

B. Parish Associate Responsibilities

The parish associate is responsible to the pastor on an as needed, as available basis.

A parish associate may not be called to be the next installed pastor or associate pastor of a church served as parish associate, unless at least six months have elapsed since the end of the parish associate relationship.

C. Session Responsibilities

Session shall approve the memorandum of agreement, renew the agreement annually, and report it to COM. The agreement shall indicate if the position includes honoraria or reimbursement.

D. Committee on Ministry (COM) & Presbytery Responsibilities

COM shall approve the original memorandum and annual renewals, and recommend approval of them to presbytery.

The agreement between the session, the parish associate, and the presbytery shall terminate when the relationship with the currently serving pastor is dissolved.

If deemed necessary for the good of the congregation, COM may recommend to the presbytery that a parish associate relationship be dissolved.