

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS FOR CALLING A PASTOR

Presbytery of Cincinnati

adopted 9/11/07, revised 9/9/08

Convened for Election of Pastor

When a congregation is convened for the election of a pastor (associate pastor), the moderator of the session appointed by presbytery or some other minister of the presbytery shall preside.

Vote by Ballot

Following prayer for the guidance of God, the moderator shall call for the report of the nominating committee. Following the report, the moderator shall then put the question: "Are you ready to proceed to the election of a pastor (associate pastor)?" If they are ready the moderator shall declare the name submitted by the nominating committee to be in nomination. The vote shall be upon the question whether the congregation, under the will of God, shall call the person nominated to be its pastor (associate pastor), and it shall be taken by ballot. In every case a majority of the voters present and voting shall be required to elect.

Larger Parish

When two or more churches established by presbytery as a larger parish unite in calling a pastor, the call must specify the support promised by each church. With the approval of presbytery, such a call may be issued by a larger parish council providing for the approval of the churches given in properly called meetings of their congregations, for payment of a total salary from a common parish treasury along with an explanation of the financial agreement between the churches of the parish, and for the annual review of the pastor's salary by the parish council with provision for a vote thereon by each congregation. When such a call has been issued by a parish council, and approved by the presbytery, each participating church shall be obligated to continue its financial support of the parish for the duration of the pastorate, unless excused by the other participating churches with the approval of the presbytery. The call shall specify that the minister is called to be pastor (associate pastor) of the churches constituting the parish.

Dissent (this section revised 9/11/08)

On the election of a pastor (associate pastor), if a substantial minority of voters are averse to the nominee who has received a majority of the votes, the following should take place:

The moderator should recommend to the candidate that he or she not accept the call. If the candidate, after discussion with the moderator (and the Pastor Nominating Committee, if desired) decides to accept the call;

The moderator shall report to the congregation the vote totals and recommend that they should reconsider the call, if the majority of the congregation insists upon their right to call the pastor (associate pastor), the moderator shall forward the call to the presbytery through the Committee on Ministry. The moderator shall record the vote breakdown on the call papers;

The presbytery, through the COM, shall be informed of the vote and will make recommendations as to how the church can deal with the issue.