

## **National Capital Presbytery Policy on Parish Associate Relationships**

A parish associate is a specialized minister who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church or churches in keeping with ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Such persons, already qualified as members of presbytery, may serve as parish associates. The annual relationship shall be established, upon nomination by the installed or temporary pastor, between the parish associate, the session, and the presbytery. The parish associate shall be responsible to the installed or temporary pastor, as head of staff, and may serve on an “as needed, and available” basis without remuneration.<sup>1</sup> Parish associates can receive honoraria for specific tasks.

*May Not Be Next Installed Pastor:* 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 one year has elapsed since the end of the parish associate relationship.

*Termination of the Relationship:* The annual agreement between the session, the parish associate, and the presbytery shall terminate when the call to the installed or temporary pastor is dissolved. The presbytery may dissolve the relationship with the parish associate upon the recommendation of the session and its moderator and a vote from the Coordinating Commission of the Committee on Ministry.

---

<sup>1</sup> If a teaching elder receives any regular salary, the contract is reviewed and approved by the Congregational Transitions Commission as a Temporary Pastoral Relationship (not a Parish Associate position).