

Clerks' Tip of the Month
Pulpit Supply, Temporary Supply, and Moderators
April, 2019



Sometimes churches are without a pastor or are between pastors or sometimes they have a situation that calls for a different minister to provide services. National Capital Presbytery has systems to help churches in these situations and, of course, policies that should be followed.

If a congregation needs someone to come preach, the clerk of session or other church member can call Colette Ramm, the Administrator for the Committee on Ministry at 240-514-5351 for a Pulpit Supply List. That list contains names and contact information for Ministers of Word and Sacrament who can fill a pulpit on a given Sunday. We have an Honorarium Policy on the presbytery website that covers these situations, www.thepresbytery.org. Here is a link to the policy: https://thepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019_Honorarium_Update_cr181109.pdf.

If a congregation is without a pastor for a period and has need of more than a pulpit supply, the Committee on Ministry Transitions Commission will assist in obtaining a short-term supply, sometimes called a “temporary supply.” There are honorarium requirements for these positions also on the link above.

Finally, sometimes churches need someone to moderate a session meeting or a congregational meeting. The Book of Order provides that the pastor of a congregation shall be the moderator of the session. But, “[i]f it is impractical for the pastor to moderate, he or she shall invite another [minister] who is a member of the presbytery or a person authorized by the presbytery to serve as moderator. If there is no installed pastor, or if the installed pastor is unable to invite another moderator, the presbytery shall make provision for a moderator.” G-3.0104. The same rules apply with respect to congregational meetings. G-1.0504. A couple of glosses on this. National Capital Presbytery has appointed pastors who are not called, *i.e.*, stated supply pastors, to be the moderators of the sessions and congregational meetings in their churches. In addition, NCP has delegated to me the authority to appoint moderators on behalf of the presbytery. So, if your session needs a moderator and either you don’t have a pastor, or your pastor is unable to appoint someone to moderate, send me an email or call me to arrange for a moderator. Moderators, too, receive honorariums, and you can find the rules on the link above.

If you have a tip you think others could use or a topic you would like information on, please let me know at scoe@thepresbytery.org.

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