

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

PASTOR EMERITA/EMERITUS GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Adopted September 25, 2018

The following guidelines and requirements provide congregations of our Presbytery with a healthy and uniform process for granting emerita/emeritus status to retired pastors.

It is important to emphasize that this is an honorary title with no inherent pastoral duties or authority and no compensation. Such a designation does not release a pastor or congregation from the obligation to maintain healthy boundaries as required by the Book of Order and the Committee on Ministry (COM).

G-2.0905 After the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, former pastors and associate pastors shall not provide their pastoral services to members of their former congregations without the invitation of the moderator of the session. *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II Book of Order*

Since this is an honorary relationship built upon gratitude and affection of a congregation for their pastor or associate pastor, the COM *ordinarily* requires that there has been a pastoral tenure of 10 years prior to consideration of pastor emerita/emeritus status.

A congregation should *ordinarily* wait a minimum of one year to request of COM that pastor emeritus/emerita status be conferred. Exceptions to this time limit may be made when necessary, such as ill health of the retiring pastor.

The session shall make a formal written request to the COM with accompanying rationale for conferring this honor on a former pastor. Session representatives *may* be asked to attend a Committee on Ministry meeting to interpret the request.

Following COM's approval, the congregation at a duly called congregational meeting may elect the retired pastor or associate pastor emeritus or emerita. It is important to carefully interpret that the title is honorary with no inherent pastoral duties or authority and no compensation.

The action of the congregation requires approval by the Presbytery of Geneva.

Following all of necessary approvals, it is appropriate to arrange for a worship service to celebrate the election of this honorary relationship.