

The Same Page

For the District Superintendent, the Pastor and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee:

Meetings:

- Designed to meet at least quarterly.
- Meets only with knowledge of Pastor who should be there unless the pastor excuses himself/herself.
- May meet at request of pastor, District Superintendent or Bishop

Suggestion: Go ahead and schedule regular meetings. It's ok to have nothing more on the agenda than to chat about how things are going in the church's life or in the pastor's life and work. Some regular agenda things are expected through the year. At the first of the year the PPR reflects on the pastoral appointment and advises the District Superintendent upon that reflection. During the year some helpful reflection is done with the pastor to develop continuing education plans and to make sure the pastor has constructive feedback on matters in the congregation(s). In the Fall, the PPR has the responsibility to recommend the compensation for the Pastor. This is shared with the Finance Committee and then the Administrative Board/Council. Be sure to share with everyone involved the agenda of the meetings beforehand.

Primary Responsibilities:

- The primary work is to give positive support and encouragement that will improve the effectiveness of the Pastor in serving the Church.
- Real help is in the form of honest feedback and information sharing with the Pastor.
- Asking how things are going is good...but it needs follow up with prayer and support.
- Confidentiality is expected on matters discussed in the meetings.

Duties:

The 2012 Discipline in Paragraph 258.2(g) list a number of duties of the PPR. Here is shortened version:

- Encourage, support, strengthen and nurture the Pastor and family.
- Promote unity of church / churches.
- Confer and counsel with pastor about:
 - Relationships in the church:
 - Effectiveness of programs and ministry efforts of the pastor:
 - Priorities for time and focus of the pastor:
 - Good topics for continuing education to increase skills to acquire help for needs in church's ministry.
- Make preparations for open itinerancy. (We have persons of both sexes and of various races who are likely to be appointed.)
- Encourage, examine and approve or disapprove of candidates for ministry.
- Inform the congregation of the Ministerial Education Fund (Part of Conference Tithe, but also something for special gifts!)
- Confer and consult on the Appointment with the pastor and District Superintendent. (This is an advisory responsibility; the pastor also has some input; however, the Bishop and Cabinet have the responsibility for the deployment of all the clergy. Please don't vote on the pastor staying or leaving. Discuss issues related to the ministry of the church. If there are issues relates to the pastor's appointment, the District Superintendent is to be invited to meet with the PPR to discuss them.)

***Confer with District Superintendent and the Pastor whenever issues arise that endanger the ministry of the church or the effectiveness of the Pastor. (Please don't put off this difficult point. It should be addressed quickly. Difficulties or problem areas should be mentioned while there is time to address the issues. There should be no surprises or saved up grievances at the appointment consultation time.)

Wrap Up:

The PPR is in a partnership with the Pastor to help make ministry happen effectively. Positive support and encouragement undergirds the work of the Pastor. Clear feedback and useful information about situations and needs in the church help the Pastor best utilize time and energy to ensure that needs are met. Interest in and demonstrated love and care for the Pastor and her/his family enrich the relationships within the church.