



The Presbytery of
DONEGAL

Service as a Covenant Pastor and the Process for Moving from Covenant Pastor to Installed Pastor

In the Presbytery of Donegal, the title of a pastor serving in a longer-term temporary pastoral relationship with a congregation is Covenant Pastor. (G-2.0504b-c)

This relationship is established when the session and the teaching elder sign a Covenant Pastor Terms of Call covenant, with the guidance and approval of the Connecting Our Ministry Commission. A covenant pastor relationship is not an installed position, but there is no time limit on how long a pastor may serve in this capacity. It is reviewed annually by both pastor and session, and then approved by COM.

After a period of service as a Covenant Pastor, a session may recommend to COM that it would best serve the ministry and mission of the congregation if the covenant pastor were to be installed as a teaching elder for the congregation.

The typical timeframe for this request would be after service for two years as a covenant pastor. The session may make the request after one year of service, if the session discerns this is a wise choice. The session shall submit the proposed terms of call on the presbytery terms of call form, which must include membership in the Traditional Plan of the Board of Pensions.

Once COM has reviewed the terms of call, COM may give permission for the session to call a meeting of the congregation to elect the covenant pastor as an installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. COM may also request more conversation with the session, if the COM does not concur that this is a wise move at the current time.

When COM approval has been obtained, a meeting of the congregation shall be called to approve the terms of call and request that the presbytery install the pastor. It may be moderated by another pastor on the staff of the congregation or by a moderator appointed by COM.

If the congregation approves the call, COM shall include approval of the call as an installed pastor on the docket of the next stated gathering of the presbytery. Approval shall require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the presbytery in order to extend the call to an installed position without a pastoral search.