Moderator Policy - 2021

APPOINTING A MODERATOR

When a congregation is without a pastor who is a Presbyterian teaching elder, a moderator shall be appointed by the Commission on Ministry (COM). For some congregations this "vacancy" is a temporary one, while they search for a pastor or await the appointment of a temporary pastor. Some congregations might be served by a Commissioned Ruling Elder or an ordained minister from another denomination; both of these situations require the appointment of a moderator who is a PC(USA) teaching elder, unless otherwise approved by the COM. Some smaller membership congregations might be served solely by a moderator and pulpit supply preachers.

The Commission on Ministry appoints moderators.

DUTIES OF APPOINTED MODERATORS

The duties of appointed moderators are to:

- Moderate Session meetings
- Moderate Congregational meetings when available
- Serve as mentor/supervisor for appointed Commissioned Ruling Elders or student pastors.
- Officiate at Weddings and Funerals, as available (see section on honoraria), or to be consulted before other officiants are arranged
- Provide Crisis (life threatening/life ending) hospital calls, when contracted to do so
- Submit a quarterly Moderator's Report, either in print or electronically to the COM
- Home communion, Nursing Home and Homebound visitation will be handled by elders and/or deacons, unless prior compensation arrangements have been negotiated with the moderator

MODERATOR COMPENSATION

The compensation schedule for pastors is set by the Presbytery; the fee for moderators will depend on the scope of duties the moderator will take on by contract with the Session. Compensation is based upon the amount of time involved for administrative and pastoral care. Appointed moderators shall receive a 1099 tax form from the treasurer of the congregation for each tax year in which they serve. Under no circumstances is it appropriate for the moderator to "donate" her or his time, or for the congregation to request that the moderator do so. This creates financial inequity between congregations with moderators. Moderators shall be paid monthly, unless a more frequent payment schedule is agreed upon by the moderator and the session.

Vouchered mileage to Session meetings and for pastoral/administrative care shall be reimbursed at the IRS approved rate. Telephone expenses, if long distance charges or cellphone minute charges are incurred, shall be reimbursed, along with other negotiated expenses.

Adopted by COM November 2017
Edited to reflect Commission on Ministry 9/8/2021