

GUIDELINES FOR LABORING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work which is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a teaching elder to engage in work which is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Book of Order 2009-2011, (G-11.0401)

INSIDE

A minister member of another presbytery seeking to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of New Covenant must submit a request to the Committee on Ministry through the stated clerk of the presbytery or the staff associate for COM. If the minister is in the process of accepting a call to the Presbytery of New Covenant, he/she **may not** move onto the field until a sustained examination is reported to COM. After this occurs, responsibility to grant permission to labor within the bounds before COM acts on the transfer of membership is at the discretion of the chair of COM. *[This portion was added by action of COM on February 1, 2011.]*

OUTSIDE

The above citation from the Book of Order has led to the convention of ministers seeking permission of their presbyteries to conduct or participate in **one-time events** outside the bounds of their presbytery (e.g., weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc.), and likewise of the presbytery in which the event is scheduled to labor within their bounds. The question has been raised, however, if this permission-seeking custom is required, or necessary.

After somewhat extensive inquiry, particularly through the Annotated Book of Order, it is clear that this portion of the *Constitution* was written to address an on-going work in which a minister may seek to participate. The focus of this portion of the *Constitution* is not for one-time occasions.

Therefore, the **Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of New Covenant will cease to require this custom of permission seeking for one-time events**. In other words, ministers who are invited to participate in ministerial functions outside the bounds of the Presbytery of New Covenant are free to do so, **provided**

- ✓ **the function is a one-time event,**
- ✓ **the function does not violate the Book of Order, and**
- ✓ **the minister inquires of the presbytery's Stated Clerk in which the event is scheduled if it is required to seek permission to labor within their bounds.**

Approved by COM: September, 2007 and 2011