



**EPC**

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

## Descending Overtures from the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

### Descending Overture 17-C

To amend *Book of Government* 10-7, creating and defining the called position of ‘Transitional Pastor’

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7
<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</p> <p>A. When there is no Pastor, a Session may invite a lawfully ordained Minister in good standing or a Commissioned Pastor to enter a temporary pastoral relationship. Although this invitation is not a call as defined in <b>G.9-5</b>, the invitation and authority to preach the Word, to administer sacraments, and to moderate Session must be approved by the Presbytery or by the Ministerial Committee acting as a Commission.</p> <p>B. Ordinarily, a person currently serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is not eligible to be called as Pastor of</p>	<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</p> <p><b>A. <i>Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</i></b></p> <p><b>1. <i>Transitional Pastor</i></b></p> <p><b>a. <i>A Transitional Pastor is called by the Session to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Transitional Pastor intentionally leads the congregation toward greater health and readiness for their next</i></b></p>

<p>that church. Should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, it must secure approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee in order to proceed.</p> <p>C. Types of temporary pastoral relationships</p> <p>1. Stated Supply A Stated Supply Pastor is invited to serve for a definite period of time of not less than one month and no more than twelve months. The Stated Supply may be appointed by the Presbytery to Moderate the Church Session during the time of service. Before the end of any invited period of service, the Session may extend the invitation for an additional period not to exceed twelve months with the approval of the Presbytery or of the Ministerial Committee acting as a</p>	<p><i>pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</i></p> <p><i>b. Due to the temporary nature of the call, Transitional Pastors called from another Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will ordinarily maintain membership in their home presbytery.</i></p> <p><i>c. Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</i></p> <p><i>d. If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this Book of Government.</i></p> <p>2. Stated Supply Pastor <i>a. A Stated Supply Pastor is invited by the Session to serve for a definite period of time, not less than one month and no more than twelve months. The term of service is renewable. Although this invitation is not a call, the invitation to serve, authority to preach the Word, to administer sacraments, and to moderate Session must be approved by the Presbytery or by the Ministerial Committee,</i></p>
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<p>Commission.</p> <p>2. Interim Supply An Interim Supply Pastor is invited to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Interim Supply Pastor may be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p>3. Occasional Supply An Occasional Supply Pastor is invited to serve regularly on specified days. Only the Ministerial Committee must approve.</p>	<p><i>if authorized by the Presbytery.</i></p> <p>b. <i>Stated Supply Pastors from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are invited by the Session and shall be interviewed and approved by Presbytery or the Ministerial Committee, if authorized by the Presbytery.</i></p> <p>3. Occasional Supply Pastor An Occasional Supply Pastor is invited to serve regularly on specified days. Only the Ministerial Committee must approve.</p> <p>B. Ordinarily, a person currently serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is not eligible to be called as Pastor of that church. Should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, it must secure approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee in order to proceed.</p>
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