

FAQ's about Ministers in the Proposed Governance System Bylaws.

What is the relationship between a Called Minister and the congregation?

Called Ministers are called by a congregational vote. Similarly, a congregational vote is required to remove a Called Minister. Called Ministers can of course voluntarily resign or retire. Called Ministers are the spiritual leaders of the congregation, and are responsible for worship and pastoral care. You will notice the absence of the ministerial titles of senior and associate. They are simply our Ministers, without rank or hierarchy.

What is the relationship between Called Ministers and the Board of Trustees?

In recognition of the special role of Called Ministers as spiritual leaders of the church, Called Ministers are nonvoting members of the Board of Trustees. This provides for the Called Ministers advising the Board of Trustees in their work of developing policies for the church and monitoring the Executive to assure that policies are being adhered to.

What is the relationship between Called Ministers and the Executive?

The Executive function is assigned by the Board of Trustees to create accountability for all Church operations, achievement of the Church's ENDS statements, and adherence to Board policies. The function can be assigned to an individual Called Minister, to two Called Ministers jointly, to a lay person or combination of Minister/lay leaders. The Executive is responsible to the Board of Trustees and serves as Executive at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. If a Called Minister is assigned as Executive, the Board of Trustees can terminate the Called Minister's Executive function, but cannot terminate the Called Minister (the congregation is the only one who can terminate a Called Minister).

All Called Ministers are members of the Executive team, which is the operational leadership of the Church. The team also includes the Executive, the DRE, and the Business Administrator. This team, led by the Executive (one or more Called Ministers, and/or lay person), who reports to the Board of Trustees. The Executive team creates operational policies and manages all the aspects of Church operations. All staff and church teams report to one of the members of the Executive team. If a Minister or Ministers are assigned as the Executive, this does not confer a title beyond Called Minister.

How is a Called Minister evaluated?

The bylaws do not specify how the Minister is evaluated. This is left to be set by Board policies and the letter of agreement with each Called Minister.

Can I see how the church is organized and how the Minister fits in?

