

## **GUIDELINES FOR SHARED PASTORAL LEADERSHIP**

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the sharing pastoral leadership between churches is to provide competent pastoral leadership and enhance and strengthen the ministry of the cooperating churches.

### **PRINCIPLES:**

1. The congregations are within close enough geographic proximity to make shared pastoral leadership feasible.
2. The congregations are similar in cultural attitude and expectations of ministry.
3. The congregations share a similar vision of mission and ministry.
4. The congregations are willing to cooperate and plan some ministries together.
5. The congregations are willing to develop a covenant that will include a joint vision, mission statement and ministry plans.
6. The congregations are willing to cooperate in developing joint expectations of pastoral leadership.

### **PROCESS:**

1. If two congregations are open to exploring a shared pastoral ministry arrangement, the Church Redevelopment Committee (CRC) and COM will each appoint a liaison to hold exploratory conversations between the two Sessions.
2. If the two Sessions agree to proceed toward a covenant agreement, a joint task force will be appointed to develop the covenant plan in consultation with the COM and CRC liaisons.
3. The task force will work together to develop a covenant that includes the following:
  - a. Vision and Mission Statement
  - b. Ministry Goals
  - c. Pastoral Expectations
  - d. Agreements
4. The draft of the covenant will be presented to each session and each congregation for discussion and approval.
5. The covenant will be presented to the CRC and COM for approval.
6. If the covenant is approved by the two congregations and the presbytery committees, the two congregations can form a joint Pastor Nominating Committee.

COM Approved: February 12, 1998