

Presbytery of Redstone

POLICY FOR RETIRED PASTORS

Abiding Principles

- 1) A retired pastor shall conform to the professional standards set forth by the *Book of Order* and the Presbytery. (*P.67, Committee on Ministry Manual, G 11-.0412 a,b*)
- 2) A retired pastor has the freedom to choose where he/she will live and worship.
- 3) A retired pastor shall direct any requests for pastoral services or complaints or concerns from former parishioners to the current pastor and session. (*G-14.0606*)
- 4) A retired pastor shall abide by the counsel offered by the Committee on Ministry in the Presbytery. (*G-11.0502a*)
- 5) A retired pastor's spouse and other family members, if members of the church previously served by the retiree, shall be afforded all rights and privileges of church membership as prescribed in the *Book of Order*. Care must be taken by the family and the church so that the ethical integrity expected of the retired pastor not be compromised.

Some Guidelines

- 1) It shall be clearly understood and communicated to the congregation that the retirement of a pastor is an "ending" of that ministry in that congregation. Friendships may continue. Formal pastoral relationships shall not.
- 2) Retired pastors shall view any relationship or communication with former parishioners from the standpoint of what is best for the church and its current pastor and session.
- 3) Retired pastors shall refrain from consulting, either formally or informally, with the governing bodies, committees, or groups/individuals in the church(es) previously served.
- 4) If requested to provide leadership in the life of the church, a retired pastor's spouse or other family members shall consider whether such leadership can be given with an eye to the church's future rather than maintaining the past.
- 5) The Committee on Ministry shall continue to maintain an active communication with retired pastors, especially in regard to their relationships with their former churches.