

Potentially Unusual Terms:

Transitional Pastor – A pastor hired after a called pastor has left. This pastor comes with intentional work designed to encourage the congregation to discern who God is calling them to be, to work through any trouble points within the congregation, and to help prepare the congregation for their next called pastor.

Committee on Ministry (COM) – This can be a committee or commission of the presbytery made up of teaching and ruling elders of the presbytery whose purpose is to partner with and oversee the churches and pastors of the presbytery. They are the go-to resource of the presbytery when a pastor or a congregation has a need.

Presbytery – The governing body made up of teaching elders and ruling elders commissioned by each church to do the work of the presbytery.

Transition Team – the group of people from a particular congregation that are put together with the purpose of finding the transitional minister and serving as a resource and steering team during the transitional process. Their work is not complete until the transitional minister has left.

Session – the congregationally elected governing body of a particular congregation. Serving the church not just with the business needs, but also the spiritual needs of the congregation.

Mission Study – the document put together by the transition team based on all of the feedback they have received from the congregation in the different forms it has been received. The document helps tell the story of who the congregation has been in the past, who the congregation is today, and who the congregation believes God is calling them to be for the future.

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) – The congregationally elected committee of a particular church with the purpose of seeking out and finding the next called and installed pastor.

Church Leadership Connection (CLC) – The PCUSA denominational resources for submitting both job descriptions and resumes. The CLC system allows matching to occur so that congregations and individuals may have national searches for their next ministerial calls.

Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) – the document created by the PNC in the CLC system designed to describe the congregation and the pastoral/position needs of that congregation.

Personal Discernment Profile (PDP) – the document created by an individual in the CLC system designed to describe the individual and their pastoral style and theology.

Installation – The congregational worship service that officially links pastor and congregation into a covenant relationship with one another.

Terms of Call – The document that specifies the pastors salary, benefits, and leave. The document will typically reflect all presbytery mandated and PCUSA mandated requirements for the terms of call.