

A Modern-Day Circuit Pastor

In the 19th century, because of the shortage of pastors, a circuit preacher officiated multiple churches in a geographical area. With numerous vacant pulpits in Minnesota Valleys, a return to this practice has advantages. Automobiles would allow a greater range for pastors to travel, and modern technology can connect pastors with churches virtually.

Our proposal is for the Presbytery to hire a one-third time Teaching Elder who could provide pulpit supply as needed. However, we are hoping for more than just filling a pulpit on a Sunday morning. The goal would be that the Circuit Pastor be a regular presence in churches and create personal relationships with the congregations. The Circuit Pastor would be expected to moderate three or four sessions of churches without pastors. Ideally, the Circuit Pastor would moderate some of the same churches as providing pulpit supply. Because of the nature of the position, it is recommended that the pastor have a minimum of 10 years of experience.

Expectations

Pulpit Supply

The Circuit Pastor would be expected to provide pulpit supply for churches within the Presbytery 40 Sundays in a calendar year. The Circuit pastor would:

- Be able to officiate the Sacrament of Holy Communion when desired by the church.
- Be able to officiate the Sacrament of Baptism when appropriate.
- Would establish a regular schedule with several the churches.

For example, the pastor could rotate weekly between four different churches each month. Or, the pastor might serve one or two churches regularly, but be available to any church in need the other Sundays.

Moderate Session

Due to the number of churches without pastors, not only is there a need for pulpit supply, but there is also a need for session moderators.

The Circuit Pastor will be expected to moderate at least three or more churches. Ideally, these would be churches where the Circuit Pastor is regularly serving ~~has as~~ pulpit supply. This would not only strengthen the relationship with the Circuit Pastor and the congregation, but also strengthen ties between the congregation and the Presbytery. Churches would be encouraged **to use** technology to reduce travel time and mileage expenses.

Funerals & Weddings

When available, the Circuit Pastor might be able to officiate funerals or weddings, especially at churches where the Circuit Pastor has established a stronger relationship. The families would be expected to provide appropriate compensation and mileage.

Pastoral Care

The Circuit Pastor might be available for some pastoral care, hospital visits, bereaving families, etc. However, in these situations, the church shall provide adequate compensation for time and mileage.

Presbytery Advocate

The Circuit Pastor would be an employee of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys and would therefore be expected to promote the connectional nature of the church. The pastor should be grounded in Presbyterian polity and theology. The pastor must also understand that there is a wide variance of the theological spectrum within the Presbytery and be comfortable serving that spectrum.

Compensation

The Teaching Elder would be an employee of the Presbytery. The congregational pulpit supply compensation will be sent to the Presbytery. The Circuit Pastor would receive one monthly check for compensation from the Presbytery. This would simplify tax calculations and provide accountability. Mileage would be paid by the church directly to the Circuit Pastor.

The salary would be based on the Presbytery Minimum Compensation Policy. The Presbytery would not provide any medical or pensions benefits for this part-time position. This would be an ideal position for a retired pastor.

Presbytery Minimum Compensation Policy 2023			Circuit Pastor Cash Salary			
Years of Ordained Service	% Below Church Wide Median	Total Compensation	Presbytery's Contribution	Pulpit Supply*	Session Moderator*	Salary Package Based on 1/3 Presbytery Minimum
None	10.00%	\$58,320	\$11,444	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$19,444
One	9.00%	\$58,968	\$11,660	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$19,660
Two	8.00%	\$59,616	\$11,876	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$19,876
Three	7.00%	\$60,264	\$12,092	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$20,092
Four	6.00%	\$60,912	\$12,308	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$20,308
Five	5.00%	\$61,560	\$12,524	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$20,524
Six	4.00%	\$62,208	\$12,740	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$20,740
Seven	3.00%	\$62,856	\$12,956	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$20,956
Eight	2.00%	\$63,504	\$13,172	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$21,172
Nine	1.00%	\$64,152	\$13,388	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$21,388
Ten	0.00%	\$64,800	\$13,604	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$21,604

*Pulpit Supply salary based on 40 Sundays, and Moderator salary based on moderating 40 session meetings during the year.