

A Church Guide for Choosing Your Next Adventure

This is a resource document identifying different options available to congregations considering changing course for the future. It is meant to assist in imagining different possibilities and prompt conversation. There may be other creative options not listed! The presbytery can help you discern the option that is best for your context. This document was created in 2019 by Rev. Ryan Landino in collaboration with the Committee on Ministry of Great Rivers Presbytery.

1. Called and Installed Pastor/Transitional Pastor

aka "All the Bells and Whistles"



Ideal for congregations that are able to sustain a full time pastor with salary and benefits

"Numbers are for conversational reference only and do not intend a ranking, preference, or hierarchy of any option over another!"

2. Part-time Installed Pastor

aka "Sure, I'll help out."



Ideal for congregations that do not require a pastor available on site or by phone 24/7.

3. Merge with Another Church

aka "Two Shall Become One Flesh"

Ideal for congregations that have a good partnership with another, and for congregations willing to let go of their building and grounds to create a new community.



4. Federate with Another Denomination

aka "With Our Ecumenical Powers Combined..."

Ideal for congregations with a good partnership with another ecumenical community that is willing to live by and perhaps alternate denominational standing rules and pastors.



5. Yoke With Another Church

aka "Circuit Rider"

Ideal for congregations willing to share a pastor and support salary and benefits together, and are flexible on their worship times to accommodate a traveling pastor.



6. Parish Model

aka "What's Old Is New Again"

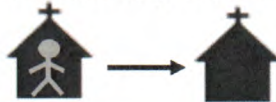
Ideal for congregations in close proximity to each other who are willing to partner with multiple congregations and work out a mutual agreement that would include full salary and benefits.



7. Pastor-on-Loan

aka "Moon-lighting"

Ideal for churches with a pastor close by that they can borrow on Sundays and for limited pastoral services.



8. Nesting

aka "Pfft, who needs a building?" aka "The Way Paul Did It."

Ideal for congregations willing to let go of their building and grounds to meet in a more cost-effective location. If nesting in another church, perhaps agreeing to a nontraditional worship time.



9. Field Ed Model

aka "Mutual Learning"

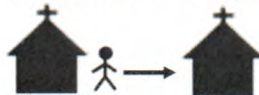
Ideal for congregations willing to take on a seminary student in limited preaching and pastoral engagement, and for those willing to mentor and be mentored in ministry.



10. Commissioned Pastor / Commissioned Ruling Elder (CPs / CREs)

aka "Yup, ruling elders can do that."

Ideal for congregations willing to accept specially trained elders from another PCUSA congregation, with experience outside of classical seminary, who are called to serve as pastor for a particular time and place.



11. Celebration of the Completion of Your Ministry

aka "Well done, good and faithful servants..."

Ideal for congregations ready to celebrate their legacy and write the final chapter of their church story.

