

Parish Associate Policy for CTM
February 2025

Definition of Parish Associate:

A parish associate is a minister who serves in some validated ministry other than the local parish, or is a member-at-large, or is retired, but who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church or churches in keeping with ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Such persons, already qualified as continuing members of presbytery, may serve as parish associates. This temporary pastoral relationship shall be established by the presbytery, between the parish associate and the session. The parish associate shall be responsible to the pastor/session as described by a job description that is approved by the session, the individual, and the Commission on Transitional Ministry, with or without remuneration.

Parish Associate Policy:

- A parish associate shall be established by nomination of the pastoral leadership of a congregation, with the approval from the session and presbytery via the Commission on Transitional Ministry. If there is no current pastoral leadership, the session may request that the Commission of Transitional Ministry, on behalf of the presbytery, establish the relationship.
- A parish associate relationship shall dissolve when a new pastoral relationship begins, by a recommendation from the session, by a recommendation by the presbytery via the Commission on Transitional Ministry, or by the parish associate's request.
- A parish associate may not be called to be the next installed pastor or associate pastor of a church served as parish associate, unless at least six months have elapsed since the end of the parish associate relationship.

Oversite:

The presbytery shall provide oversight by the Committee on Transitional Ministry of the parish associate relationships of its minister members and the churches under its care, including annual review.