

**147<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery  
Zoom  
September 25, 2020**

**Supplemental Packet #2**

Committee on Ministry Report Addendum

DRAFT TWO OF AMENDMENT TO CoM'S MANUAL OF OPERATIONS RE ELDERS COMMISSIONED TO  
PASTORAL SERVICE.....C.7 2020/3

*DRAFT TWO OF AMENDMENT TO COM'S MANUAL OF OPERATIONS RE ELDERS  
COMMISSIONED TO PASTORAL SERVICE*

Whereas, Palo Duro Presbytery is increasingly authorizing ruling elders to be commissioned to limited pastoral service because in consultation with sessions it has determined that its strategy for mission requires it (G-2.1001);

Whereas, Palo Duro Presbytery has delegated its authority to the Committee on Ministry to facilitate matters related to churches and pastoral relationships (G-3.0307) in the Committee on Ministry Manual;

Whereas, The Manual of Operations of the Committee on Ministry specifically enumerates presbytery's delegation of authority with regard to ordained Ministers of the Word and Sacrament but is largely silent with regard to ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service;

Whereas, The Committee on Ministry has determined that it can better facilitate pastoral services to churches if presbytery were to delegate to it authority in matters pertaining to ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service that are analogous to those delegated to it pertaining to Ministers of the Word and Sacrament;

**Resolved**, That the Manual of Operations of the Committee on Ministry, section II.C.8 and 10 and 11, be amended by inserting the words in **bold** as follows:

II. Administrative Organization of the Committee on Ministry

C. Committee on Ministry Functions

8. In cases where a pastor and congregation have concurred, the Committee on Ministry shall have authority to dissolve a pastoral relationship and shall inform the Stated Clerk of presbytery of the action, who may then dismiss the pastor to another presbytery. **In cases where a ruling elder commissioned to pastoral service and the session concur, the Committee on Ministry shall have authority to withdraw the commission.**
10. The Committee on Ministry shall have the authority to
  - a. appoint an installation and/or ordination commission; **appoint persons to conduct a service of commissioning a ruling elder to pastoral service;**
  - b. appoint moderators of vacant-pulpit churches;
  - c. find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for services to teaching elders (ministers); **in cases when ruling elders have been previously commissioned, find in order the terms of the commission proposed by churches for the services of ruling elders, to approve and**

**assign to ruling elders the terms of the commission for services, and to authorize ruling elders to be commissioned to pastoral service;**

d. approve the examination of teaching elders (ministers) transferring from other presbyteries; **authorize the commissioning to pastoral service of**

**previously commissioned ruling elders from another presbytery provided that the ruling elders have met the standards of Palo Duro Presbytery (CoM Manual II.F.5);**

e. approve temporary pastoral relationships, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of presbytery.

11. The Committee on Ministry shall not have the authority to examine or approve calls to candidates under care of Palo Duro Presbytery or any other presbytery. All such examinations must be completed by the presbytery in session. **The Committee on Ministry shall not have the authority to certify a ruling elder ready to receive a commission if the ruling elder has not been previously commissioned; this is the responsibility of the Preparation Ministry (Preparation Ministry Manual II.C.8).**