

PCPC Pastor Emeritus Policy

**The Book of Church Order
Presbyterian Church in America**

The Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation and The Procedure for Honorable Retirement

23-2. The Presbytery may designate a minister as honorably retired when the minister by reason of age wishes to be retired, or as medically disabled when by reason of infirmity is no longer able to serve the church in the active ministry of the Gospel. A minister medically disabled or honorably retired shall continue to hold membership in his Presbytery. He may serve on committees or commissions if so elected or appointed.

23-3. A minister, being medically disabled or honorably retired, may be elected pastor emeritus by a congregation which seeks to honor his past earnest labors among them.

PCPC's Adaptation of the PCA Pastor Emeritus Policy:

The pastor emeritus role honors a PCPC pastor's faithful service, effective ministry, and recognizes his continued calling as a shepherd in our church. In addition to recognizing the guidelines from BCO 23-2 and 23-3, PCPC recognizes the benefit of having pastors continue to contribute to the life and ministry of PCPC. While he will no longer have responsibility for the oversight of a PCPC ministry department or area, he is encouraged to continue to serve as a shepherd among our body. These shepherding responsibilities may include ministering the Word of God, ministering the sacraments, counseling, conducting weddings and memorial services, and other ministry responsibilities as determined by the session.

PCPC pastors are eligible to become pastor emeritus at the age of 65. Beginning at the age of 70, pastors will either fully retire or become pastor emeritus if so recommended by the session. Associate pastors must also be elected pastor emeritus by the congregation. Exceptions can be approved on an annual basis by the Personnel Committee and session. The Personnel Committee and session will make an annual evaluation of ministry opportunity for those pastors with emeritus status. While the pastor emeritus role is not a paid position and does not have a regular job description, PCPC may pay a reasonable amount of compensation to the pastor for specifically defined ministry responsibility after he moves to pastor emeritus status. He may request that PCPC and PCA Retirement and Benefits designate an amount for a housing allowance out of his compensation from PCPC and PCA Retirement and Benefits as long as his retirement funds remain with PCA Retirement and Benefits.

(session approved 6-27-2022)