A Church Guide for Choosing Your Next Adventure

*This is a guideline of different options available to congregations that are looking at changing courses for the future. It is meant only to help you imagine different futures that are possible in the right circumstances. There may be other creative options not listed. The Committee on Ministry will help you discern the option that is best for your context.*

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.*



1. 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.*



1. 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.*



1. 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.*



1. 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.*



1. 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.*



1. Pastor-on-Loan *aka “Rent-A-Cop” aka “Moon-lighting”*

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



1. 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.*



1. 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.*



1. Commissioned Lay Pastor / Commissioned Ruling Elder (CLPs / CREs)

 *aka “Yup, ruling elders can do that.”*

*Ideal for congregations willing to accept specially trained elders from another PCUSA congregation who are called to serve as part-time temporary pastor with experience outside of classical seminary training.*



1. 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.*

