

## STATEMENT OF ETHICS

When a pastor leaves a charge there are bonds of affection between the minister and members of the church that continue to be cherished. Relations of friendship continue, but the pastoral relationship does not. In order to spare ministers and church members from embarrassment, and to encourage the new pastoral relationship that will be established, the presbytery directs that the church be reminded of these requirements:

When any minister resigns from a pastorate or retires from service, or becomes a pastor emeritus, the minister should cease to perform such functions of a pastor as funerals, baptisms, and weddings, unless invited to officiate in such capacity by the pastor or by the moderator of vacant churches. (G.A. Min. 1948, p.119, Status of Retired Ministers)

The spirit of this action applies to all ministers of the church, whether retired or not, and whether they have ever served as pastors of particular churches. (G.A. Min. 1959, p.208, Overture 39).

In short, church members should not request a former pastor to perform pastoral duties. If requested, the pastor should tactfully decline.