Pulpit Supply Guidelines

Presbytery of Great Rivers

Revised December 2025

The Purpose of the List

The Pulpit Supply List is intended to assist congregations in finding an individual to fill the pulpit for worship services. Pulpit Supply is intended as a Sunday-by-Sunday **temporary** relationship.* If the church is intending to enter into an ongoing relationship, Presbytery approval is required through the Committee on Ministry (COM).

The worship leaders on this list have been approved by COM. Utilizing ministers from our pulpit supply list does not require COM permission. While it is strongly encouraged that congregations utilize the approved Pulpit Supply List, sessions may invite ministers of other denominations to lead in worship **occasionally**.

Who May Serve Communion?

Stated Clerk Rev. Elissa Bailey: "Only Ministers of the Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) or minister members of denominations with which we are in full communion**, are authorized to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in PC(USA) churches. Commissioned Lay Pastors/Ruling Elders are not authorized to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in churches across the Presbytery. The only exceptions are when it is the Ruling Elder's church of membership or the church to which the Commissioned Lay Pastor is currently commissioned, training has been conducted, AND COM has granted permission specifically for that Commissioned Lay Pastor to administer the sacrament in that particular commissioning or the Ruling Elder to administer the Sacrament because of a shortage of Ministers of the Word and Sacrament in the area of the church."

Compensation

Supplying the pulpit involves significant preparation time by the supply preacher. Compensation for a supply preacher is $150 for one service and an additional $50 for two services, plus mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate. Congregations should discuss ahead of time with the pulpit supply additional compensation for non-traditional technological services, such as recording or editing or online worship.

**Denominations with which we are in full communion: The PC(USA) is in full communion with the Evangelical Church of American (ELCA), the Reformed Church in America (RCA), and the United Church of Christ (UCC). Only Presbyterian Church (USA) Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Formula Partner ministers (Reformed Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the United Church of Christ) may serve as installed pastors of Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations. The PC(USA) also has covenant agreements with Korean Presbyterian Church in America and The Moravian Church.

Great Rivers congregations may also contact pastors on the East Iowa Presbytery Pulpit Supply List: https://peia.org/comv/pulpit-supply/.