

RULE REGARDING MODERATORS

PRESBYTERY OF WEST JERSEY

As directed by G-3.0201, The Presbytery of West Jersey has established the following rule regarding moderators of sessions/congregations within the Presbytery. (This rule assumes the pastor/assigned moderator is unable to invite another pastor to moderate).

This rule needs to be amended to include the AI approved last GA that permits a presbytery to permit a minister of another denomination to moderate if the presbytery is satisfied with that person's qualifications (temporary members, G-2.0506).

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G-3.0201 states the following:

If there is no installed pastor, or if the installed pastor is unable to invite another moderator, the presbytery shall make provisions for a moderator. Presbyteries shall provide by rule for moderators when the session is without a moderator for reasons of vacancy or inconvenience.

The Moderator is the presence of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbytery of West Jersey for its congregations, and is provided by the action of the presbytery. Should Presbytery of West Jersey need to appoint a moderator to serve due to the vacancy of the installed pastor or inconvenience, the Committee on Ministry has the following options:

1. A minister member of the presbytery.
2. A former moderator (ruling elder) of Presbytery of West Jersey.
3. A ruling elder who is serving or has served on the Committee on Ministry in the past three years.
4. A commissioned pastor (ruling elder) whose commission includes serving as a moderator.
5. A minister member of another presbytery who is approved by the Committee on Ministry. (For instance, said minister may be on the presbytery's Approved Pulpit Supply list.) If not on pulpit supply list the minister must have a "Safe Gatherings" certificate on file with the presbytery office.
6. A minister of another Christian church serving temporarily in a validated ministry of this church or in an installed relationship under the Formula of Agreement.

In urgent situations, the appointment can be made by the moderator of the Committee on Ministry, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter. In no circumstance may a session elect one of its own ruling elder members to serve as moderator.

This rule shall apply to both the moderator of session and for a congregational meeting.

As a reminder, installed pastors, co-pastors, and associate pastors are members of session and entitled to vote (G-3.0201). Moderators appointed by the presbytery have voice but do not have the right to vote in session meetings.

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