

Committee on Ministry Report

Special Meeting, March 27, 2025

Motion:

Peace River Presbytery approve a half-time Installed Associate Pastor relationship between Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch, and TE Mary Beth McSwain.

Rationale:

Peace Presbyterian Church Session, with the knowledge their founding Pastor of 20 years plans to retire from the congregation in May, approached the Committee on Ministry in January with a request to convert a part-time Parish Associate position to a half-time Installed Associate Pastor position. Following dialogue regarding the plan proposed and discernment, COM authorized the Session to proceed with a Mission Study and continue their discernment process. Recently at a duly called congregational meeting, the congregation voted unanimously to request Peace River Presbytery to install the Reverend Mary Beth McSwain as half-time Associate Pastor. The approved terms of the call are listed on the attached job description. Also attached is the initial letter to COM.

COM members requested that a special meeting be called in order to fulfill the Book of Order requirement to enable the mission strategy.

A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a minister of the Word and Sacrament currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or co-pastor, or a minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting. G-2.0504(c)