

## **COM Policy for Ministers of Word and Sacrament RE: Pastoral Counseling**

Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving congregations engage in pastoral counseling as a part of their pastoral responsibilities. As such, they are under the oversight and liability coverage of the session. All such ministers are encouraged to refer parishioners and others who ask for counseling to properly trained professionals in the field when the needs of the parishioners go beyond the skills and training of the minister. If a Minister of Word and Sacrament serving a congregation has counseling as their primary responsibility, Grace Presbytery shall be named as an additional insured showing coverage for the following: 1) counseling professional liability coverage, 2) sexual misconduct and sexual molestation liability coverage and 3) a cancellation provision such that insurer will send notice of cancellation at least ten days before the effective date of the termination of Grace Presbytery.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are not under the authority of a session, but whose validated ministry consists primarily of counseling, or others the Committee on Ministry determines are subject to this policy, shall provide the COM the following when applying for membership in the presbytery or for a validated ministry:

- Documentation of certification as a State of Texas Licensed Professional Counselor (or equivalent).
- A certificate of insurance (with Grace Presbytery listed as an additional insured) showing coverage for the following: 1) counseling professional liability coverage, 2) sexual misconduct and sexual molestation liability coverage and 3) a cancellation provision such that insurer will send notice of cancellation at least ten days before the effective date of the termination of Grace Presbytery.

All ministers subject to this policy must annually provide COM:

- Verification of current State of Texas certification (or equivalent).
- A certificate of insurance with the provisions stated above.