

Presbytery of the James
Parish Associate Policy
COM approved: February 13, 2025
POJ approved: June 10, 2025

A Parish Associate is a specialized minister who wishes to maintain a relationship with a particular church or churches in keeping with ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Such persons, already qualified as members of presbytery, may serve as parish associates.

- The Parish Associate is nominated by the pastor. The Parish Associate is a form of service outside the *Book of Order*. The relationship is formalized by the Session, is reviewed and approved by the Commission on Ministry (COM), and is reviewed annually thereafter. Upon the dissolution of the pastor-congregation relationship the Parish Associate relationship is terminated. Note: Upon dissolution of a pastor-congregation relationship the former pastor shall adhere to the Relations of Former Pastors to Congregation Policy.
- The Parish Associate serves under the supervision of the pastor on an “as needed, as available” basis, “with or without remuneration.” Parish Associates offer to congregations their gifts and commitments as a complement to the pastoral services provided by pastors and associate pastors.
- The Parish Associate relationship in the Presbytery of the James will be restricted to those persons and relationships which meet the understanding as stated above. The Parish Associate may receive (or not) compensation, reimbursement for expenses incurred, and/or remuneration commensurate with the type and number of services he/she is able to provide.
- There shall be no restriction on the number of Parish Associates a congregation may have. The COM will consider each Parish Associate relationship individually.
- Former Parish Associates may remain within the fellowship of the congregations they have served as Parish Associates, but in doing so they will abide by the guidelines for ministerial conduct approved by the COM and the Presbytery of the James.