

COM Policy for Ministers of Word and Sacrament
RE: Pastoral Counseling
3.15.2022

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 ministry consists primarily of spiritual or professional advice, guidance, direction or counseling services shall provide at application or in their annual report to Grace Presbytery evidence of the following:

- Documentation of certification as a State of Texas Licensed Professional Counselor (or equivalent).
- A certificate of insurance showing coverage for the following: 1) counseling professional liability coverage and 2) sexual misconduct and sexual molestation liability coverage. Additionally, if a fee or compensation is charged to participants or clients for spiritual or professional advice, guidance or counseling services, then Grace Presbytery shall be included as an “additional insured” under such insurance policy.

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.