

UCCH PRC Charter:

Purpose:

The Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee in a congregation, with the purpose of supporting a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregants in order to enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry.

The committee serves in two primary ways:

- (i) **as an advisory group to the pastor:** sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor;
- (ii) **as a support group for the pastor's leadership:** interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

Goal: The goal of a Pastoral Relations Committee is to promote faithful, shared ministry between the pastor and the congregation.

Core Principles: Confidentiality, support, care, and honesty with the pastor, healthy two-way communication (PRC and the congregation to Pastor, and the Pastor to congregation).

Composition: A minimum of 5 members, in addition to the Senior Pastor, and recommended to have at least one member from the search committee participate for the first term after the minister is called.

Member Selection: Council and pastor each create a list, compare and come to mutual agreement. Assistant Moderator chairs the PRC. New members are voted on by the council.

Term of service: 4 year staggered term to ensure continuity and fresh perspectives

Frequency of meetings: At least every quarter and as requested by the Pastor and/or a congregation member.

Meetings: When a congregant has suggested a meeting, at least 2 members of the PRC may participate to ensure accurate and aligned understanding of the issue (to be determined on a case-by case basis).

Communication: Publish the names of the PRC members, the PRC mandate as well as **PRC email address** that congregants and pastors can use to provide feedback. On a regular basis, include a 'boxed' announcement in the bulletin, giving our names, and ask for compliments as well as complaints.