

**[OVT-008] On Amending G-2.0504b****Source:** Presbytery**Committee:** Unassigned**Event:** 226th General Assembly (2024)**Sponsor:** Mid-Kentucky Presbytery**Type:** General Assembly Full Consideration

## Recommendation

**On Amending Specified Periods of Service in Temporary Pastoral Relationships in G-2.0504b**

The Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment of the Book of Order to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote.

**Shall Section** G-2.0504b, Temporary Pastoral Relationships, be amended as follows:

(Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~; inserted text italicized.)

“Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed ~~twelve~~ *thirty-six* months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery.”

## Rationale

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An increasing number of congregations are being served by temporary pastors. Extending the specified period of service from twelve to thirty-six months will provide these congregations a stronger sense of stability. It would save both sessions and presbyteries considerable time and paperwork if they did not have to renegotiate a contract every year, giving them more time to attend to the tasks of interim/transitional ministry rather than continuous contract negotiation. Finally, given that the average time that it takes a congregation to move from the end of one pastoral relationship to the start of another pastoral relationship is longer than twelve months, the church should be able to make provision for temporary pastor contracts that are longer than twelve months.

## Concurrence

**Central Nebraska Presbytery**

