

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY

TRIENNIAL VISIT GUIDELINES

Visit Purpose and Nature:

The Book of Order (G-3.0307) specifies: "Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations."

To ensure that these guiding principles are being followed, those responsible on behalf of presbytery for the oversight and review of the ministry of particular worshipping congregations should discuss with those sessions the quality of worship, the standards governing it, and the fruit it is bearing in the life of God's people as they proclaim the gospel and communicate its joy and justice. (W-1.4002)

The visit will be conducted in a spirit of warmth, openness and caring. This is neither an investigation nor an inquiry, but an opportunity to build trust and to listen to reflections on the life of the church.

Two or more persons, at least one of whom is a current member of the Committee on Ministry (COM), make up the team. When possible, the team should include both clergy and laity.

The Visit:

The COM is responsible for notifying the session that a visit needs to be scheduled and for sending necessary materials prior to the meeting so that session members can prepare for the visit.

The moderator of the session moderates the meeting when the team visits.

Follow-up:

Following the visit, the visitors submit a written report to the COM. Following approval, the COM chairperson will send copies to the session moderator and the clerk for distribution to the session.