

Pittsburgh Presbytery Policy on Moderators

Congregational Meetings

The pastor shall be the moderator of all meetings of the congregation. In congregations where there are co-pastors, they shall, when present, alternately preside at meetings. When the church is without a pastor, the moderator appointed by the presbytery will preside at all congregational meetings. If it is impractical for the moderator to preside, he or she shall invite, with the concurrence of the session, another teaching elder of the presbytery to preside. A ruling elder who is, or has been, a member of that presbytery's committee on ministry, the stated clerk, Pastor to Presbytery or Associate Pastor to Presbytery may be asked to preside; such elder may not moderate the meeting of a congregation of which that ruling elder is a member. When this is not expedient, and when both the moderator and the session concur, a member of the session may be invited to preside.

A presbytery may appoint a commissioned ruling elder as moderator to the church to which she or he is commissioned.

Session Meetings

The pastor of the church shall be the moderator of the session and the session shall not meet without the pastor except as here provided. In congregations where there are co-pastors, they shall, when present, alternately preside. When a church is without a pastor, the presbytery will appoint a teaching elder of the same presbytery as moderator. If it is impractical for the moderator to preside, he or she shall invite, with the concurrence of the session, another teaching elder of the presbytery to preside. A ruling elder who is, or has been, a member of that presbytery's committee on ministry, the stated clerk, Pastor to Presbytery or Associate Pastor to Presbytery may be asked to preside; such elder may not moderate the meeting of a congregation of which that ruling elder is a member. When this is not expedient, and when both the moderator and the session concur, a member of the session may be invited to preside.

A presbytery may appoint a commissioned ruling elder as moderator of the session to the church to which she or he is commissioned.

In all judicial cases, the moderator of the session shall be a teaching elder of the presbytery to which the church belongs.