

Suggested title: Guaranteed Appointment

Discipline: ¶ 334.2-.3

Financial Implications: None

Sponsoring Agency: General Board of Discipleship

Rationale: This legislation moves “Guaranteed Appointment” from a right of clergy to a privilege that requires evidence of growth in vocational competence and effectiveness and a willingness to accept the missional strategy of the bishop reflected in the appointment process.

Amend ¶¶ 334.2 and .3 to read as follows:

2. There are professional responsibilities that elders are expected to fulfill and that represent a fundamental part of their accountability and a primary basis of their continued eligibility for annual appointment. These shall include:

a) Continuing availability for appointment;

~~b) Growth in vocational competence and effectiveness through continuing formation is expected of conference members. The board of ordained ministry (¶ 634.2n) shall set minimal standards and specific guidelines for continuing formation for members of their conference and ensure their availability. Further specificity of priorities for current appointments shall be arranged in consultations with appropriate bodies in that setting.~~

~~b)~~ **Annual participation in a process of evaluation with committees on pastor-parish relations or a comparable body comparable authority as well as annual participation in a process of evaluation with the district superintendent or comparable authority;**

c) Evidence of continuing effectiveness reflected in annual evaluations by the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and by the District Superintendent or comparable authorities;

d) ~~Annual participation in evaluation with his or her district superintendent~~ **Growth in professional competence and effectiveness through continuing education and formation. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall set the minimum standards and specific guidelines for continuing education and formation for conference members;**

e) Willingness to assume supervisory and mentoring responsibilities within the connection.

3. If an elder fails to meet these professional responsibilities, ~~the provisions of ¶ 362.4e may be invoked~~ **the bishop may request suspension, recommend an involuntary leave of absence, suggest the voluntary surrender of credentials, seek the administrative location of the elder, or file a complaint. Any elder who does not demonstrate growth in vocational competence and effectiveness as defined by the annual conference and any elder who will not accept the appointment determined by the bishop forfeits the right to an appointment.**