

Presbytery Visitation Form

(approved by Great Lakes/Gulf Presbytery, February 2015)

Recommendation 1. Presbytery shall appoint Visitation Committees to visit congregations so as to observe the ways in which teaching and worship are ordinarily conducted. This should involve attending Lord's Day activities and if possible also mid-week events. The aim should be to sample the ordinary life of the congregation in order that they may, in Pauline fashion, "see how they are doing" (Acts 15:36).

Recommendation 2. Presbytery shall be responsible to meet the expenses of Visitation Committees, including pulpit supply when a Pastor is required to be out of his pulpit on account of his participation in the visitation of another congregation over a Lord's Day.

Recommendation 3. Presbytery visitation should involve meeting with the session, but not ordinarily with the membership under their supervision except at the request of the session and in conjunction with the session. This meeting should deal specifically with the matters relating to teaching and worship and the life of the congregation. They should be provided with details regarding worship services, preaching, sacraments, Sabbath School curricula, the diaconate, outreach, youth work, discipline, finances, property, general spiritual condition and relationships. The following outline should be used in this meeting with the session.

Recommendation 4. Presbytery Visitation should ordinarily be septennial.

Preliminary Information

Date:

Place:

Time convened and adjourned:

Committee represented by:

Session members present:

Session members absent:

1. Services (time and form of service)

Sabbath, AM:

Sabbath School:

Sabbath PM:

Midweek:

Others:

2. Preaching

Content of morning sermons:

Content of evening sermons:

Pulpit supply:

Attitude of the congregation to the preaching ministry:

3. Sabbath School

Curriculum for youth:

Curriculum for adults:

Catechetical Instruction:

4. Youth work

When:

Leaders:

Activities:

Style of ministry:

5. Sacraments

Baptisms: (how many this year? process and form?)

The Lord's Supper: (frequency? fencing of table?)

6. Discipline

Administrative: (cases and how they were handled)

Judicial: (actions taken since previous visitation and outcomes)

7. Outreach

Present:

Results:

Plans/ideas:

8. Diaconate

Deacons:

Special activities:

9. Financial

Is the Budget being met?

Are the Pastor's needs being met?

Is the work of the Synod being supported?

Is the work of the Presbytery being supported?

Are any other particular ministries being supported?

10. Physical plant

Condition and needs:

Projects recently completed:

Projects in process:

Projects being planned:

11. Relationships

Congregation to the denomination:

Congregation to the presbytery:

Among the session:

Session and pastor:

Session and congregation:

Among congregation:

With other RP congregations:

With other local congregations:

12. Other questions, problems, or issues to be brought to the Presbytery?

13. Minutes

Date last reviewed:

Any Notations and/or Exceptions found on current review: