

Guidelines for Mentors of Commissioned Pastors

The *Book of Order* (BOO), paragraph G-2.1004, states “*The ruling elder commissioned under the terms of G-2.1001 shall work under the supervision of the presbytery. The presbytery may at any time withdraw the commission for reasons it deems good and sufficient. A minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.*”

The Charleston Atlantic Presbytery (CAP) Commission on Ministry (COM), in accordance with the BOO requirements, establishes the following guidelines for mentors assigned to supervise Commissioned Pastors (CP) serving the presbytery:

1. The mentor shall be an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament. If the CP is serving under the supervision of a senior pastor, that pastor shall serve as mentor and supervisor. If the CP is serving in a ministry without a senior pastor, such as a solo pastorate, the COM shall appoint a mentor to the CP.
2. The mentor should be a good role model for the CP. The mentor should demonstrate the openness and caring that the CP should develop.
3. The mentor should be approachable and non-judgmental, should listen before giving advice, and present negative comments in a positive way.
4. The mentor should encourage the CP to pursue his or her own personal growth.
5. The mentor should be accessible for meetings and phone conversations.
6. The CP should contact the mentor at least monthly. If the CP has not contacted the mentor in several months, the mentor should initiate contact. The COM should be contacted if this problem persists.
7. The mentor should report to the COM at least once a year. This report may be submitted in conjunction with the CP’s annual report to the COM.
8. The mentor is appointed for one year but may be reappointed for consecutive years.
9. The mentor should typically not have responsibility for more than one CP.