



“Labor-In/Labor-Out” Requests

“Labor-In/Labor-Out” requests for one-time events such as weddings and administering the sacraments have made up a sizable portion of every Committee on Ministry (COM) agenda and ultimately every COM report to presbytery. On COM’s behalf, Synod Associate Diana Barber informally polled other presbyteries about this practice, as did Stated Clerk Nancy Grittman at an OGA conference for stated clerks. It appears very few presbyteries continue to expect ministers to ask permission for one-time events. The consensus is that G-11.0401a,b pertains to ministers seeking to labor outside their presbytery’s jurisdiction or geographical bounds in actual ministry positions of a contractual nature. This plain-sense interpretation of G-11.0401a,b allows for better time-stewardship for COM, the stated clerk, the particular ministers who participate in one-time events and the presbytery as a whole. We are therefore happy to report that at its 11/11/08 stated meeting, the presbytery voted to approve the following recommendation from COM:

M/S/C to recommend to presbytery that the presbytery no longer require ministers to ask permission to Labor Outside/Inside the Bounds for a one-time event, i.e. a wedding or administering the sacraments. Permission continues to be required for ministers who work in a position of a contractual nature and labor outside the presbytery’s jurisdiction or geographical bounds. (G-11.0401 a-b)

- Kirsten Berry and Pat Milloy, COM co-chairs