

Policy #22 – Counselors
Committee on Ministry – Presbytery of Tampa Bay

1. Ministers under the authority of this policy fall into two categories. First, ministers serving congregations whose primary responsibility is to provide pastoral counseling. Second, ministers whose validated ministry primarily consists of pastoral counseling or other similar functions.
2. Pastors, associate pastors, designated pastors, interim pastors, stated supplies, temporary supplies, and parish associates whose primary responsibility is other than counseling are not subject to this policy. They are subject to the oversight of the session.
3. The Committee on Ministry (COM) is authorized to determine who is under the authority of this policy (using the criteria indicated above). All ministers subject to this policy must provide the following to the COM when applying for membership in the presbytery or for a validated ministry:
 - a. Documentation of training in pastoral counseling such that the pastoral counselor could meet the current requirements of the “Member Level” of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. If these requirements have not yet been met, documentation must be provided showing a formal plan leading to completion of the requirements. Each year the progress made toward completion of the requirements will be reviewed by the COM.
 - b. Identification of a regular and on-going (at least monthly) consulting relationship with one of the following: (1) a pastoral counselor recognized by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors at the “Member” level or above, OR (2) a certified psychotherapist or psychologist approved by the COM.
 - c. A certificate of insurance showing the following: counseling professional liability coverage, sexual misconduct/sexual molestation liability coverage, with the Presbytery of Tampa Bay listed as an additional insured (when permitted by the employing organization), and a cancellation provision such that the insurer will mail notice of cancellation at least 10 days before the effective date of termination to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.
4. All ministers subject to this policy must annually provide the COM:
 - a. Written reports from the pastoral counselor’s session or employing organization and the pastoral counselor’s consultant (see 3.B. above) attesting to a positive pastoral counseling ministry.
 - b. A certificate of insurance renewal (with the provisions of 3.C. above).