

Policy # 26 – Conflict of Interest for Minister Members of the Presbytery
Committee on Ministry – Presbytery of Tampa Bay

1. **Personal Representative, Executor or Trustee:** While serving a congregation, and for a period of five years following the termination of service, no minister shall serve as the personal representative of the estate, executor of a will, or trustee of any trust established by any person (or guardian of a person or property of ward) who has ever been a member of the congregation. This prohibition does not apply to the extended family of the minister.
2. **Bequests:** While serving a congregation, and for a period of five years following the termination of service, no minister shall accept any bequest of money or property from the estate or trust of any person who has ever been a member of a congregation served by the minister. This prohibition does not apply to the extended family of the minister.
3. **Attorney-in-fact:** While serving a congregation, and for a period of five years following the termination of service, no minister shall serve in the capacity of being the attorney-in-fact for any person who has ever been a member of a congregation served by the minister. This prohibition does not apply to the extended family of the minister.
4. **Business Relationship:** While serving a congregation, and for a period of five years following the termination of service, no minister shall enter into a business relationship (other than as a client, patient or customer) with any person who has ever been a member of the congregation. This prohibition does not apply to the extended family of the minister.
5. **Bank Accounts:** While serving a congregation, no minister shall be a signatory on any bank account or other type of investment in which the underlying funds or investment is the property of a church. Ministers shall provide quarterly reports to the church treasurer accounting for all discretionary funds expended by the minister while preserving the confidentiality of the recipient.
6. **Conflict of Interest:** Ministers shall avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest or other inappropriate conduct. If a minister finds himself or herself in a situation where a decision is under consideration in which the interest of the church conflict with his or her personal interests, the minister shall abstain from participating in the decision. This includes, but is not limited to, moderating the portion of a session or congregational meeting considering the establishment of his or her call to a pastoral relationship, changing the terms of the call, or dissolving the call.
7. **Exceptions:** Ministers may be exempted from any provision of this policy in extraordinary circumstances with the prior approval of the Committee on Ministry.