

Categories of Congregational Activities

To assist in the collegial covenanting process

Things ordained participants usually do after covenanting	Middle Ground: needs to be covenanted or negotiated in advance. <i>Watchwords: if you have any qualms about something, just ask!</i>	Things minister-members should avoid or never to do unless requested.
Attend worship, coffee hour, and other public events like memorial services, public lectures or concerts.	Quasi-ministerial leadership such as any appearance in worship, leading a discussion or support group, teaching a class in adult programs, etc. (Preaching, even at the request of the worship team, requires an invitation from the minister each time.)	Anything that signifies lack of support for incumbent minister, lay leadership or church policies. (No factions, no triangles!)
Participate in social activities like group meals and potlucks, support or affinity groups, activities such as hiking club. (No talking about church, though!)	Assist with or conduct rites of passage. (Always at the request of incumbent minister; the issue to discuss is how do they want to communicate if the request comes to you?)	Participate in top church leadership: elected office, Long Range Planning Team, policy creation teams, ministerial search committees. Be the center of attention at coffee hour or a memorial reception.
Serve on some non-governance committees or teams which get basic work done (e.g., grounds, kitchen, memorial receptions, etc.)	Lead a project or chair a committee. Do anything that is directly answerable to a staff member, such as teach RE. (These activities can inadvertently make the incumbent minister's life more difficult. Just ask!)	Listen to complaints. (See Code of Conduct for appropriate response. Choose and practice a way to remove yourself from these situations and discourage repeats.)
Participate in music or art groups such as choir.	Do any pastoral care more involved than a few sentences at coffee hour or a card in the mail, for anyone in the congregation including close acquaintances. (Discuss: do they want you to mention pastoral needs you become aware of?)	Be on the COM, Healthy Community Team, Ministerial Relations Committee and the like.
Volunteer in congregational witness and community service projects (e.g., food pantry, tutoring, ESL, etc.)	Participate in something the incumbent is present at or leading (e.g., going away party for staff member; church meetings).	Implying in any way that you speak for the congregation or its ministry.