



4 July 2025

Dear Friends,

### Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice - New Codes 3.1(h) and (i)

The Assembly Synod Standing Committee has updated the Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice.

Code 3.1(h) and (i) are new provisions, addressing the participation of Retired Ministers and Ministers in non-congregational placements within congregations where they have previously served.

These new provisions are as follows:

- (h) Retired Ministers and Ministers in non-congregational placements:  
(i) shall not normally worship in a congregation where they have previously served in a ministry placement; but  
(ii) if they wish to worship in such a congregation, they shall first consult with the Presbytery and any Minister in placement in the congregation.*
- (i) Subject to (h), Retired Ministers and Ministers in non-congregational placements may express leadership within the congregation where they worship when invited to do so by the Minister in placement or upon approval by the Presbytery.*

These provisions formalise church custom and practice with the intention to:

1. ensure a healthy and respectful transition for both the congregation and the ministers involved
2. foster an environment where new leadership can flourish, while still valuing the contributions of those who have served faithfully in the past.

The Moderator Rev Bruce Moore and I affirm the dedication and service shown by all Ministers in congregations. We recognise that Ministers and their families have built deep connections and relationships within congregations over the years.

I have offered the support of the Synod Office to Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committees in supporting Ministers with the consequences of these new provisions.

Blessings,

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh  
**General Secretary**