

Commissioned Lay Pastor Plan for the Presbytery of Carlisle

TRAINING UNDER COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

1. The requirements for commissioned lay pastors are found in the *Book of Order*, G-14.0801. These requirements govern this policy and all guidelines and procedures established under it.
2. An elder who is interested in becoming a commissioned lay pastor (CLP) must be endorsed by the session of the particular church of which he/she is a member.
3. The elder will then be interviewed by the presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), which has charge over training. The elder's suitability for entrance into CLP training will be determined by the CPM.
4. The presbytery requires that anyone desiring to become a CLP successfully complete the on-line CLP training from Dubuque Seminary. This training covers the areas required in the *Book of Order*, G-14.0801a: Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching. The specific education completed by elders who have been trained in other presbyteries will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
5. The CPM will assign a minister of the Word and Sacrament as mentor and supervisor, who is available to answer questions and help the elder during this training. Supervisors ordinarily will be members of presbytery, though not necessarily current members of the CPM. This supervisor will augment the CLP course work by providing hands-on experience in the field.
6. Psychological testing acceptable to the CPM is required for CLP candidates.
7. Upon successful completion of the CLP training and psychological counseling, the CPM will examine the prospective CLP and ascertain his or her readiness for commissioning. A written statement of faith from the CLP candidate will be the basis for the examination.

ASSIGNMENT, COMMISSIONING, SUPERVISION UNDER COM

8. The Committee on Ministry (COM) shall act on behalf of the presbytery to determine the suitability of a trained elder for commissioning as CLP of a particular congregation, and will authorize the work of the CLP as outlined in this policy and the *Book of Order*.
9. If the candidate is found acceptable, COM assigns him or her to a congregation that needs and will accept a CLP.
10. A contract will be worked out between the session of that congregation, the CLP, and the COM, including a clear understanding of duties of the CLP, number of hours per week to be worked, and financial terms. The CLP may be authorized by the COM to perform any or all of the following functions: (G-14.0801c)
 - a. Administer the Lord's Supper
 - b. Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
 - c. Moderate the session of the congregation under the supervision of and when invited by the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery.
 - d. Have a voice in meetings of presbytery.

- e. Have a vote in meetings of presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity.)
 - f. Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible committee, and when allowed by the state.
11. A commission shall normally only be valid for a period of up to three years. (G-14.0801b)
 12. The COM shall make it clear to the CLP and the congregation that the CLP is commissioned to function as a lay pastor in that congregation only, and only in the ways authorized by the COM. (G-14.0801a)
 13. Commissioning is done in a presbytery meeting as described in G-14.0801g and h.
 14. COM assigns a pastor in the geographic vicinity as supervisor and mentor of the CLP as required in G-14.0801d, and provides resources and review as required in G-14.0801b.
 15. All CLPs will meet annually with the COM to determine the continued status of the relationship, per G-14.0801b.

Adopted 6/22/2004