

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Plan for the Presbytery of Carlisle

TRAINING UNDER COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

1. The requirements for Commissioned Ruling Elders are found in the *Book of Order*, G-2.10. These requirements govern this policy and all guidelines and procedures established under it.
2. A Ruling Elder who is being called to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) must be endorsed by the Session of **the particular church of which he/she is a member.**
REQUIRED: A letter of endorsement from the Session of the congregation of which he/she is a member along with a completed CRE Application form.
3. The Ruling Elder will then be interviewed by the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), which has charge over training. The Ruling Elder's suitability for entrance into CRE training will be determined by the CPM.
REQUIRED: Interview form with candidate's agreement to share all transcripts / feedback with CPM.
4. The presbytery requires that anyone desiring to become a CRE successfully complete training in these areas: Bible (OT & NT), Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching. These courses are available in an online format through Dubuque Seminary or other theological institutions as approved by CPM. The specific education completed by Ruling Elders who have been trained in other presbyteries will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
REQUIRED: Transcripts
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 Ruling Elder during this training. Supervisors ordinarily will be members of presbytery, though not necessarily current members of the CPM. This supervisor will augment the CRE course work by providing hands-on pastoral experience in the field.
REQUIRED: Biannual feedback from by supervisor
6. Psychological testing acceptable to the CPM is required for all CRE candidates.
REQUIRED: Evaluation results
7. Upon successful completion of the CRE training and psychological counseling, the CPM will examine the prospective CRE and ascertain his or her readiness for commissioning. Upon approval, the CPM will report to the Commission on Ministry (COM) that the CRE is "ready to be considered for commissioning".
REQUIRED: Exam results and CPM Endorsement Form for COM

ASSIGNMENT, COMMISSIONING, SUPERVISION BY THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

8. The Commission on Ministry (COM) shall act on behalf of the presbytery to determine the suitability of a trained Ruling Elder for commissioning as a CRE of a particular congregation, and will authorize the work of the CRE 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 CRE.
10. A Covenant of Agreement will be negotiated between the Session of the particular congregation, the CRE, and the COM, including a clear understanding of duties of the CRE, number of hours per week to be worked, and financial terms. The CRE **may be authorized** by the COM to perform any or all of the following functions: (G-2.1001) only in the church to which they are commissioned.
 - a. Administer the Lord's Supper
 - b. Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
 - c. Moderate the Session of the congregation under the supervision of the Commission on Ministry.
 - d. Have a voice at meetings of presbytery.
 - e. Have a vote at meetings of presbytery (such vote to be counted as a Ruling 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. Normally, a commission shall only be valid for a period of up to three years, but shall be renewable. (G-2.1001)
12. The COM shall make it clear to the CRE and the congregation that the CRE is commissioned to function as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in that congregation only, and only in the ways authorized by the COM. (G-2.1001)
13. When the Commission on Ministry is satisfied with the qualifications of a Ruling Elder to serve a congregation providing the services described above, the presbytery shall commission the Ruling Elder to pastoral service as designated, employing the questions contained in W-4.0404.
14. COM shall assign a minister of Word and Sacrament who is a member of Carlisle Presbytery in the geographic vicinity of the congregation the CRE is serving, as supervisor of and mentor for the CRE as required in G-2.1004. It shall provide resources for the CRE as requested and shall review the commission annually as required in G-2.1001.

Approved by Presbytery -09/25/2018