

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK
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**APPLICATION PROCESS FOR LAY PASTOR,
COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR PROGRAM**

Discernment Process

1. All candidates for the lay pastor program must be elders in good standing ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
2. Candidates are to meet with the Lay Pastor Administrator to review requirements and process as they begin the discernment process.
3. Candidates must write a letter of application to the Committee on Ministry for approval to begin program.
4. All candidates must receive the endorsement of their application to the Committee on Ministry by the session of their church.
5. Candidates will interview with representatives of COM prior to approval of their application.

Educational Requirements

1. Eight courses fulfill the Book of Order requirements:
(*denotes ôcore curriculumö)
*Introduction to Old Testament
*Introduction to New Testament
*Reformed Theology
*Preaching
*Worship and Sacraments
Presbyterian Polity
Pastoral Care
Teaching
2. The options for meeting these requirements are flexible. For example, a course offered within the presbytery, a course offered with/by ecumenical partners, a tutorial course, a course at an accredited seminary, a course at a college or university (that is shown to cover the appropriate material), an on-line course offered by a reformed seminary or university. Prior approval of course work must be obtained from the Lay Pastor Administrator with final approval of the Committee on Ministry. Scholarship aid is available.

Certification and Commissioning Requirements

1. Approval by Committee on Ministry(COM) to supply pulpits.

Upon completion of Old Testament and New Testament courses as well as at least two other core courses and upon the recommendation of the Lay Pastor Administrator and with the approval of COM, a candidate's name may be added to the list of supply preachers published by the Presbytery.

2. Certified Lay Pastor

Upon completion of the complete curriculum and upon the recommendation of the administrator, a candidate will be examined by the COM for recommendation as a certified Lay Pastor.

This examination shall include:

- presentation of a personal statement of faith
- presentation of a sermon (preferably orally) along with exegetical notes on the biblical passage(s) upon which the sermon is based.
- a self-evaluation
- examinations in the following areas (oral and/or written) modeled after the practically oriented questions in the standard ordination examinations: theology, worship and sacraments, pastoral care, teaching.

Upon successful completion of the examination the candidate is presented to presbytery for certification for a commission.

3. Commissioned Lay Pastor

Certified Lay Pastors are commissioned by the Presbytery of Northern New York upon the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry to one of the following areas:

- a specific congregation
- a specific group or cluster of cooperating congregations,
- a new church development
- a validated ministry

