

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK

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PROCESS FOR COMMISSIONED PASTOR (CRE) PROGRAM

Discernment Process

1. All candidates for the Commissioned Pastor [CRE] Program must be elders in good standing ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
2. Candidates are to meet with a representative of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) to review requirements and process as they begin the discernment process.
3. Candidates shall have a background check and professional psychological evaluation completed within a year of entering the program. Financial assistance is provided.
4. Candidates must complete the CP Program Application and submit to the CPM for approval.
5. All candidates must receive the endorsement of their CP Application from their session.
6. Candidates will interview with representatives of CPM prior to approval of their application.
7. Develop an education/action plan, catered specifically based on pastoral/preaching/educational experience.
8. CPM assigns a liaison for ongoing support and at least quarterly check-ins.

Educational Requirements

1. Eight courses to fulfill the Book of Order requirements:
 - * Introduction to Old Testament
 - * Introduction to New Testament
 - * Reformed Theology
 - * Preaching
 - * Worship and Sacraments
 - * Presbyterian Polity
 - * Pastoral Care
 - * Teaching/Christian Education

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 CPM. Scholarship aid is available.

3. In developing the education plan, life experiences and/or prior education/service in the church may be taken into account in assigning or waiving coursework.

Certification and Commissioning Requirements

1. Upon the recommendation of the CPM 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 Ready for Commission. Upon completion of the complete curriculum and upon the recommendation of the CPM, a candidate will be examined by the CPM and COM for recommendation as a Ruling Elder Certified for Commission.

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.
- presentation of a statement of sense of call/faith journey
- 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 Pastor. Certified Ruling Elders 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