

What next?

Those who feel called to ministry in the PC(USA) should first contact his/her pastor, who can discuss which of the three paths may be best. This usually includes getting the endorsement of Session about a particular path to ministry.

If the Session agrees that a candidate possesses gifts for ministry, they can endorse a member on their path. In so doing, they will notify the CPM. The CPM will then meet with candidates, and provide guidance on how each candidate can prepare and fulfill the requirements for each path.

How can our church help the formation of new leaders?

- Pray for God's church, that new leaders may continue to be called to ministry
- Serve as a liaison for someone in the process, supporting them in prayer and encouragement
- Provide financial support for your candidates' expenses

The Committee for Preparation for Ministry (CPM) works with individuals seeking to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and with Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) who serve in a limited pastoral role.

The Committee is made up of Ruling Elders and Ministers from the 70+ congregations of the Presbytery of Detroit. If you are interested in serving on CPM, please contact the co-moderators using the below information!

Contact Us

Co - Moderators:

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Called to What?

THREE PATHS TO SERVE IN MISSION IN THE CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES IN THE PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT

SERVE YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

The simplest option to find a way to use your gifts in your local church.

Whether as a volunteer or a staff person, you can serve in ministry in a congregation already. There are endless possibilities of how to serve in ministry! Some include:

- Youth director
- Associate for visitation
- Stephen Minister
- Music Director
- Evangelist

In the PC(USA) these areas of ministry cannot include officiating the sacraments (baptisms, the Lord's Supper), officiating weddings, or moderating the Session.

Serving in your local church in most areas do not require the involvement of the CPM. With the guidance of your Pastor, simply have a conversation with your Session about ways to serve in mission in your local church!

MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT (MWS)

The process of becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament (also called a Teaching Elder) is the traditional path to pastoral ministry. It is the longest process that provides a wide scope of opportunities to serve. Ministers of Word and Sacrament may serve as church pastor, a chaplain, or in some other ministry setting validated by the Presbytery.

Some of those steps include:

- Obtain a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary, with coursework focused on the Reformed tradition
- Complete field education units in the PC(USA)
- Receive a thorough psychological evaluation
- Passing ordination examinations
- Being examined by the Presbytery, including answering questions from the assembly

This process generally takes at least three years (or longer, if done on a part-time basis), but once completed, a minister is ordained for life and may serve anywhere in the PCUSA.

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER (CRE)

Someone who has been ordained as a Ruling Elder can be commissioned by the Presbytery to serve as a pastor, evangelist, or other ministry leader.

Through the Committee on Ministry, the the Presbytery creates a commission for a ruling elder to serve in a specific ministry, as a staff or a volunteer. Responsibilities typically include:

- Officiating the sacraments
- Preaching regularly
- Moderating a session
- Leading weddings and baptisms

To ensure they are adequately prepared for the above duties, candidates go through training programs on topics like Presbyterian theology, polity, Biblical studies, and pastoral care. They also must complete a field education program in some church other than their home congregation.

A CRE's commission is only valid within the Presbytery of Detroit - they may not be allowed to transfer and serve as a CRE in another presbytery.