

A NOTE FROM THE CPM TO PERSONS APPLYING TO BECOME A COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER (CRE) CANDIDATE

Please compile the following materials to share with your church's Session for your endorsement. When they have voted to endorse you, forward the materials to the Moderator of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM):

- (1) Completed CRE Program Application with attached Written Materials
- (2) Completed Endorsement Form with the signature of Clerk of Session with the date of the endorsement and the comments on required areas on the applicant.

In addition, prepare and send (for CPM use only) written reflections on the PCUSA Constitutional questions as described below:

As you apply to become an Approved Commissioned Ruling Elder Candidate in the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) needs to have a sense that you are prepared to answer affirmatively, and with integrity, the constitutional questions that will be asked of you upon commissioning. These questions are found in the Book of Order W-4.4003. Please share with us: (1) what each question means to you, and (2) any areas where you wrestle with the implications of these questions.

- (1) Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- (2) Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- (3) Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- (4) Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions?
- (5) Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- (6) Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- (7) Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

(8) Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

(9) Will you be a faithful ruling elder in this commission, serving the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?