

AP18: How to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder in Heartland Presbytery

1. You must be an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
2. For clarity, read G-2.10 in the *Book of Order*.
3. Contact the Heartland Presbytery office (1-816-924-1730) Administrative Assistant supporting the Committee on Commissioned Ruling Elders (CCRE) for an application to enter the program. Complete and submit the application to CCRE. After the application is reviewed by CCRE, the committee will interview you and provide you with information on appropriate preparation and instruction. [G- 2.1002].
4. When you have completed successfully the appropriate training as well as a psychological evaluation, and have been successfully examined by the CCRE, your name will be forwarded to the Commission on Ministry (COM), along with certification that you are ready to be commissioned.
5. As part of the commission to serve in a particular church, you may or may not be authorized by presbytery to perform any or all of the following functions [G- 2.1001]: administer the Sacraments, moderate the session, and officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. The CCRE will certify to the COM whether or not you have the training necessary for any of these functions. Also, the particular situation of a church, which you might serve, will determine which of these functions presbytery might authorize.
6. The COM will invite you to a meeting to get acquainted with you. This commission has the responsibility for matching those available and trained to be Commissioned Ruling Elders with churches for which a Commissioned Ruling Elder would be appropriate. Therefore, the COM needs to know about your personal faith, your calling for seeking the commission, and your areas of instruction. Before meeting with the COM you will need to complete and submit the Commissioned Ruling Elder Information Form and any other appropriate information the COM may request.
7. The COM will work to match your skills and interests with a church You are not to approach any church or session on your own. When the commission has identified a possible opportunity with which you seem well matched, it will arrange for an interview with the session through the commission's liaison with that church.

8. When an appropriate position has been found and terms of the Commissioned Ruling Elder contract have been worked out and approved by the session, the COM and you, the COM will recommend to presbytery that you be commissioned to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery along with those ministry functions you will be authorized to perform at that church.
9. You will be examined on the floor of Heartland Presbytery and commissioned when the presbytery is satisfied with your qualifications to serve the congregation [G-2.1003].
10. The COM will assign a teaching elder of Heartland Presbytery to serve as your mentor and supervisor [G-2.1004].

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