

## Application requirements

- Be an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Be endorsed by the elder's church Session
- Have a high school diploma or GED, college degree preferred
- Complete the application process.
- Complete psychological assessment.

## Admission into the training program

Admission to the training program is based on the approval of each elder's application documents by the CCRE and the results of the psychological assessment.

Admission to the program is also based on the elder's agreement to participate in an ongoing process of vocational discernment directed by the CCRE.

## More information

For more information, or to request an application, please contact:  
Heartland Presbytery at 816-924-1730 or 1-800-332-4849

Or

at [www.heartlandpby.org](http://www.heartlandpby.org)  
located under Commissioned Ruling Elders.

An inquiry meeting will be held for people interested in the training program. The meeting date will be posted and will be advertised at Presbytery meetings.

**“We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind...”**

## Anticipated cost

The estimated cost for the training program through the **University of Dubuque Theological Seminary** is

- \$75 for the required one time beginning course taken before any other courses are begun.
  - \$390 per course, total of 10 courses.
- All courses are online.

The estimated cost for the training program through **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary** is

- \$25 Application Fee
  - \$375 per course, total of 7 courses
- All courses are on line, but two courses require some on campus instruction.

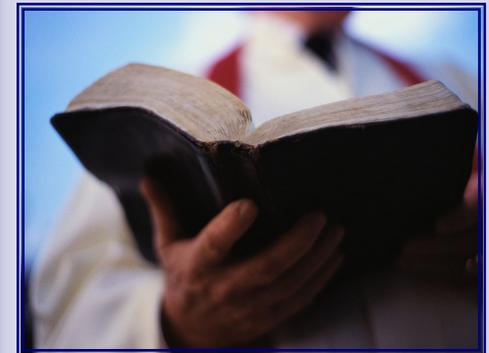
The estimated cost for the training program at **Union Presbyterian Seminary** is

- \$100 per course, total of 9 courses.
- All courses are on line.

*Heartland Presbytery*

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# Heartland Presbytery's Commissioned Ruling Elder Training



## Discerning Christ's Call

**HEARTLAND PRESBYTERY**  
[www.heartlandpby.org](http://www.heartlandpby.org)

# Discerning Christ's Call To Serve

## What is a Commissioned Ruling Elder—a CRE?



As defined by the *Book of Order*, a “commissioned ruling elder is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (USA), who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service. The elder shall be instructed in Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching.

CRE's are commissioned by the Presbytery in response to the ever-changing missional needs of our churches. These are elders who sense God is calling them to new forms of service and who are trained and authorized by the Presbytery, working in partnership with teaching elders.

*“The Call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering, and a responsibility.”*

From The Service of Commissioning.

## What functions may a CRE be authorized to perform?

A presbytery may authorize a commissioned ruling elder to perform any or all of the following functions:

- *Administer the Lord's Supper.*
- *Administer the Sacrament of Baptism.*
- *Moderate the session of the congregation under the supervision of and when invited by the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery, or when appointed by presbytery as moderator.*
- *Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible committee, and when allowed by the state.*
- *Have a voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity). (Book of Order, W-4.4003)*

## Purpose statement

The purpose of Heartland's CRE training is to equip elders theologically, academically and practically to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service.

Ordinarily, commissioned ruling elders would be commissioned to serve congregations other than the church where they are members. Even if elders complete the program and do not seek a commission, they may use their gifts, new training, and leadership skills in their home church and through participation in the mission of the Presbytery.

## Components of the CRE training program

The Heartland Presbytery offers a CRE training program consisting of:

- Nine on line courses through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

OR

- Seven on line courses through Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with some on campus instruction required for two courses.

OR

- Nine on line courses through Union Presbyterian Seminary.
- Additional meetings as scheduled by the Committee on Commissioned Ruling Elders.
- Each student will be assigned a mentor.
- Field Education may be required. This practical education will be performed at churches other than a student's home church.