

(CP) COMMISSIONED PASTOR

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

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PROCESS FOR A CONGREGATION SEEKING A CP (Approved 08/05/25)

When, in the view of the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, the most effective way of supplying the needs for the preaching of the gospel in a congregation is by a Commissioned Pastor (CP), the COM or its designated representative may suggest that the congregation consider this option. The session of that church may then request Presbytery through the COM or its designated representative that a local commission be granted to a properly qualified person. If such a request is approved by the COM it shall assist the congregation in understanding the role of the CP and the process to be followed.

THE ROLE OF THE CP

The congregation should review the role of the CP within the local congregation as described in the Book of Order G-2.10 and discern with the COM how this position may be helpful in leading the congregation forward in ministry. Together, the congregation and the COM may select a qualified and interested CP to serve the needs of the congregation for a specified period of time, not to exceed three years, but may be renewable. The CP serves on a contract basis, the terms of which are agreed upon by the congregation, the CP, and the Presbytery through the COM.

COMPENSATION

Compensation shall be established by written agreement between the CP, the session of the church served, and the COM or its designated representative. The amount of the compensation shall depend on the amount of work, time involved, travel necessary, and volunteer considerations.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Participation in one continuing education event shall be required of the CP each year for renewal of the commission. The COM shall offer one such event each year that will satisfy this requirement. Other courses, conferences, workshops, or events may be substituted for the continuing education event with prior approval of the COM.

The CP is encouraged to seek out additional events to supplement the requirement as well.

RENEWAL OF COMMISSION

The commission of a CP will be reviewed at least annually, and the term of service shall not exceed three years, but shall be renewable (G-2.1001) based on the following criteria.

1. The desire of the CP to have the commission renewed.
2. Submission of annual report.
3. Fulfillment of the Continuing Education requirement.
4. Annual review by the COM.
5. Approval of the COM.

SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION

1. The COM will encourage the CP to continue in faithful study and devotional use of the Bible, and to engage in study opportunities, applying when appropriate, for available funds from Presbytery resources.
2. The COM agrees to consult with the Clerk of Session of the church where the CP is serving on an annual basis.
3. The COM will encourage the CP to regularly attend Presbytery meetings as a corresponding member with voice but no vote, unless the person is an ordained elder elected as a commissioner to the meeting or is commissioned to a particular church or other validated ministry.
4. The Mentor for the CP also agrees to remain in contact with the CP on a regular basis as a means of ongoing support and encouragement.