

## Qualifications for Acceptance

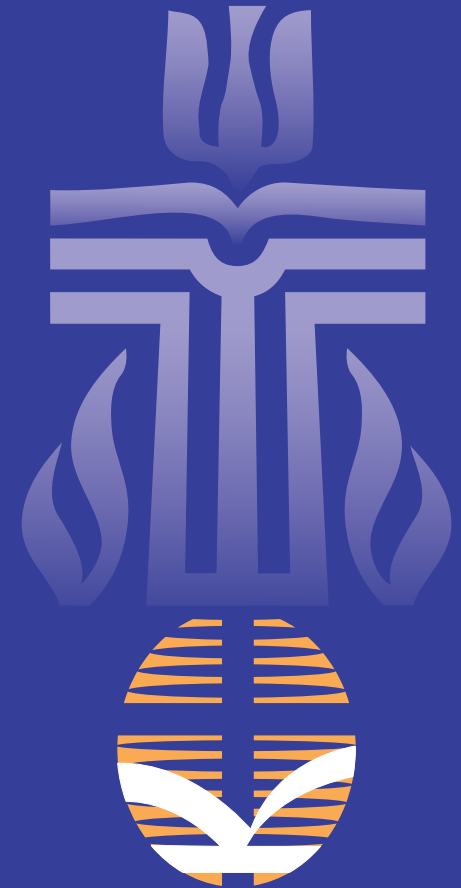
The qualifications for acceptance into the program shall be that the individual:

- senses that he or she has a call to ministry,
- is a member in good standing of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
- is an ordained elder for at least two years,
- holds a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, *[The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) will determine appropriate credit for post-high school work and life experience]*
- possesses recognized leadership ability,
- is endorsed by his/her local session,
- is recommended by three references, at least one of whom is an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament and a member of the Presbytery of Detroit,
- is willing to accept the care and guidance of a mentor appointed by the CPM during training and by Presbytery/Committee on Ministry when commissioned,
- submits a completed application that provides responses to all stated questions.

Presbytery of Detroit  
17575 Hubbell  
Detroit, Michigan 48235



## Commissioned Lay Pastor



A unique way  
for an elder  
to serve within the  
Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.)

## Opportunity to Serve

The commissioned lay pastor is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 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 commissioned lay pastor may:

- Administer the Lord's Supper
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
- Moderate the session
- Have voice in the meetings of presbytery
- Have a vote in meetings of presbytery
- Perform a service of Christian marriage

The commissioned lay pastor shall work under the supervision of the presbytery through the moderator of the session of the church being served or through the Committee on Ministry. A minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.

An elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in a particular congregation may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions of a commissioned lay pastor until appointed again to a particular congregation by the presbytery.

## Training

The Presbytery of Detroit and Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) are offering courses for Commissioned Lay Pastor training. These courses are offered in weekly sessions at ETS and are taught by nationally recognized professors. Cost for this training is \$2000 and takes one year. These courses are available for church staff and professionals, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The classes are also available to be audited for those with a general interest in the subjects offered. The program begins in January of each year, provided the equivalent of five full-time participants are interested.

### Courses include:

- Church History
- Evangelism
- Faith Development
- Internship
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Pastoral & Personal Boundaries
- Pastoral Care
- PC (U.S.A.) Mission
- Polity
- Preaching & Liturgy
- Reformed Theology
- Teaching
- Worship and Sacraments

## Action Steps

1. Download a commissioned lay pastor application from the Presbytery website:  
<http://www.pbydetroit.org>
  - select Committees,
  - then select Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
2. Complete the application.
3. Obtain letters of recommendation as soon as possible.
4. Meet with your session to secure their endorsement.
5. Contact the chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) to arrange an interview.

### Presbytery of Detroit

17575 Hubbell  
Detroit, MI 48235

PHONE: 313-345-6550

866-345-6550  
(toll free in Michigan)

FAX: 313-345-7250

EMAIL: [info@detroitpresbytery.org](mailto:info@detroitpresbytery.org)

WEB: [www.detroitpresbytery.org](http://www.detroitpresbytery.org)

[www.pbydetroit.org](http://www.pbydetroit.org)  
(for papers)

For additional information reference the **Book of Order** G-14.0800.

Prepared for the Presbytery of Detroit by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Presbytery of Detroit  
Commissioned Lay Pastor Program  
Application for Enrollment

**Note to Applicant**

The purpose of the questions in this application is to provide the Session and the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) with background information that will help them to get to know you. Because there is great variety in age and experience of persons making application, this questionnaire is purposely broad in scope. Be as accurate and candid as you can. Please type or write legibly, using extra paper as needed to provide information you feel will give the fairest representation of yourself. This information will be used as a basis for mutual discussion.

After completing the application, make a copy for yourself and submit the original to the Clerk or Moderator of the Session of your home church. Additionally, forward a copy of the reference questions to each of your references asking them to attach their responses (using more paper as needed) and submit to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Once the Session endorses the Elder, the original copy of all paperwork must be forwarded to:

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Presbytery of Detroit

17575 Hubbell

Detroit, MI 48235

Commissioned Lay Pastor Program  
Background Information for  
Session and Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Background**

List the academic institutions you have attended, beginning with high school and complete the information requested:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Dates Attended</u>	<u>Program or Major</u>	<u>Diploma or Degree</u>
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Describe any previous experience in Lay Preaching or Lay Pastor Training:

**Occupational History**

List the three most recent full-time or part-time positions in which you have been employed and also provide the following information: job title, dates of employment, aspect most enjoyed, aspect most disliked.

1. Current employment:
  
2. Next most recent:
  
3. Second most recent:

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Church History

Date and place of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of profession of faith: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Date joined: \_\_\_\_\_

Date ordained an elder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date ordained a deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

List other churches where you have been a member.

List areas of involvement in your local church both as a participant and leader. Indicate areas of leadership.

List areas of involvement in Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly.

List voluntary services, civic or social organizations of which you are or have been a member. Indicate your extent of participation and your role.

List any factors that may place limits on your ability to receive training or to serve as a Commissioned Lay Pastor.

## Questions for Reflection

Write a response to each of the following. These responses should be attached to this application.

1. In one or two paragraphs, describe yourself as a person.
2. Describe briefly what it means to you to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor? What has motivated you to consider this program?
3. Write a brief statement of your personal faith (approximately 300-500 words). Your statement should describe (at minimum) what you believe about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and your relationship to them.
4. What does it mean to you to be a Presbyterian?
5. Describe your current spiritual journey, spiritual practices, prayer life, and disciplines.
6. Comment on your interests, hobbies and stress-relieving activities.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## References

Please list three people who will serve as references. One should be your pastor or a pastor within the Presbytery of Detroit.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Please ask your references to answer the following questions and to send their responses under separate cover directly to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry at the following address: The Presbytery of Detroit, Attn: CPM, 17575 Hubbell Ave., Detroit, MI 48235

1. To what extent does the applicant adhere to Christ's teachings?
2. What is your experience of the applicant's commitment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
3. What special gifts, talents and skills does the applicant exhibit for service as a Lay Pastor?
4. What is the most recent example of the applicant's service to the church?
5. If the applicant were your Lay Pastor, what specific areas would you wish him or her to improve?
6. If you are a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and a member of the Presbytery of Detroit, would you be willing to serve as the applicant's mentor if asked?

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

After completing the application, make a copy for yourself and submit the original to the Clerk of Session or Moderator of the Session of your home church.

Presbytery of Detroit  
Commissioned Lay Pastor Program  
Reference for Applicant

Background Information for \_\_\_\_\_  
(applicant's name)

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time known person: \_\_\_\_\_

The person named above is seeking admission to the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry would appreciate your candid response to the following questions:

1. To what extent does the applicant adhere to Christ's teachings?
2. What is your experience of the applicant's commitment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
3. What special gifts, talents and skills does the applicant exhibit for service as a Lay Pastor?
4. What is the most recent example of the applicant's service to the church?
5. If the applicant were your Lay Pastor, what specific areas would you wish him or her to improve?
6. If you are a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and a member of the Presbytery of Detroit, would you be willing to serve as the applicant's mentor if asked?

Please type or write your responses legibly using the amount of paper you feel necessary. Send your responses directly to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry at the following address: The Presbytery of Detroit, Attn: CPM, 17575 Hubbell Ave., Detroit, MI 48235

**Presbytery of Detroit  
Commissioned Lay Pastor Program  
Session Evaluation and Recommendation**

The Session of \_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church  
of \_\_\_\_\_, met with \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_ and submits the following report:

The Session \_\_\_\_\_ **endorses** the applicant to be trained by the Presbytery as a Commissioned Lay  
Pastor  
\_\_\_\_\_ **does not endorse** the applicant to be trained as a Commissioned Lay Pastor.

This report was prepared for the Session by the Clerk:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone Date

Attested by the Moderator:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone Date

The Session will copy and mail completed application and attachments to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry at the following address: Presbytery of Detroit, Attn: CPM, 17575 Hubbell, Ave., Detroit, MI 48235.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Evaluation and Recommendation**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry of Detroit Presbytery met with \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_ and endorses / does not endorse him/her for training as a Commissioned  
Lay Pastor.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLP Candidate