

PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY
Committee on Ministry

Commissioned Lay Pastor Policy

The Form of Government, G-14.0560, provides for Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP). A CLP is an elder who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to lead worship and preach. The commission is valid only in congregations designated by the presbytery. A CLP is selected by the presbytery and trained. A CLP may perform a service of marriage, administer the Sacrament of Baptism, administer the Lord's Supper, and moderate Session if authorized by the presbytery. The commission shall be valid up to three years as determined by the presbytery. It may be reviewed at expiration or terminated at any time at the discretion of the presbytery.

1. Conditions for Commissioning

- A. When a church is in need of a pastor, but due to location or size is unable to call a pastor or stated supply.
- B. When a church cannot be yoked with another church.
- C. When the presbytery is in the process of developing a strategy for ministry in a given area, of which a church is an integral part.

2. Administration

The CLP program shall be administered and supervised by the Certified Lay Professionals Committee (CLPC) in cooperation with the Committee on Ministry (COM). The COM shall seek the cooperation and counsel of the with reference to churches which may both need and qualify for a CLP.

3. Examination

The examination of candidates shall be the responsibility of the COM. A favorable report of examination shall be necessary for commissioning. An examination for re-commissioning as a CLP shall be necessary if more than two years have elapsed since the expiration of a previous commission.

4. Commissioning

The commissioning of CLP shall be done by the presbytery upon the recommendation of the COM. When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of an applicant it shall ask the applicant the questions required in W-4.4003.

5. Assignment

The COM shall make a recommendation to the presbytery as to the specific church that

the candidate may serve. Assignment shall be for a specific period of time not to exceed three years, with specific responsibilities defined by the COM.

6. Accountability

The CLP shall work at the assigned church under the supervision of the session, the moderator (if the CLP is not the moderator of session), and COM liaison. The COM liaison in consultation with the moderator shall make regular reports concerning the work of the CLP and the welfare of the church to the COM. The session shall annually (in consultation with the COM liaison) conduct a review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the work of the CLP, and report findings to the COM.

7. Compensation

Compensation for the service of a CLP shall be negotiated by the COM with the session of the church to be served and shall be approved by presbytery. The adequacy of such remuneration shall be reviewed annually with changes reported to the presbytery.

8. Expiration. Revocation. Re-commissioning

A Commission will expire at the conclusion of the specific period of time agreed for the assignment, or sooner if the need for such ministry no longer exists.

A Commission may be revoked at any time by the presbytery on recommendation from COM following consultation with the session of the church being served. Reasons for revocation may include either non-compliance with the provisions of this policy or for a violation of the vows of commissioning.

Re-commissioning may take place upon the recommendation of the COM. An examination will be necessary if more than two years have elapsed since the expiration of the previous commission.

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