

**CERTIFIED RULING ELDER POLICY (CRE)  
OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY**

**Adopted April 17, 2007 and Amended March 23, 2017  
(updated Nov. 8, 2018)**

[Responsibility of Commission for Church Professionals]

1. Introduction

- a. Every Christian is called to ministry. The Reformed tradition holds that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. The total ministry is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ; we are called to embody that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others and by proclamation of God's word to all people.
- b. The Presbytery of Scioto Valley is aware of the growing need to provide competent ministerial leadership in churches which do not have the resources but have the need for regular pastoral leadership. In view of this need and in keeping with the Reformed tradition the Presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service in accordance with the *Book of Order, G-2.1001*.
- c. The Certified Ruling Elder Task Team (CRET), as a function of the Commission for Church Professionals (CCP), will prepare and recommend to CCP, persons who may be available to serve in congregations. CCP, with cooperation and suggestions from CCL (Commission for Congregational Life), will determine ministries that may be best suited to the Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE).
- d. When the CCP is satisfied with the qualifications of the Certified Ruling Elder, and a ministry has been endorsed, the Certified Ruling Elder will be commissioned by the presbytery to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery, employing the questions contained in *Book of Order, W-4.0404*
- e. CRE will adhere to all requirements of confidence and privilege set forth in G-4.03.

2. Constitutional Authority

- a. The *Book of Order* states that a ruling elder "may be commissioned to serve in a validated ministry of the presbytery." (G-2.1001)
- b. The commission of the CRE is limited to the ministry validated by the presbytery, and "shall also specify the term of service, which shall not exceed three years but shall be renewable." (G-2.1001) The work of the CRE shall be reviewed annually by the presbytery's CCP or its designated sub-committee.

- c. The *Book of Order* specifies that a CRE may be authorized to perform any or all of the following functions, but only as specified by CCP:
  - i. Administer the Lord's Supper
  - ii. Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
  - iii. Moderate the session of the congregations under the supervision of and when invited by the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery: or when so commissioned by the presbytery
  - iv. Have a voice in meetings of presbytery
  - v. Have a vote in meetings of presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for the purposes of parity)
  - vi. Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible committee, and when allowed by the state.
- d. The CRE shall work "under the supervision of the presbytery. The presbytery may at any time withdraw the commission for reasons it deems good and sufficient. A minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor."  
*The Book of Order* (G-2.1004)

Amended March 23, 2017 and March 2019