



Application for Preparation for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) and Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLPs)

Presbytery of Baltimore
Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Before you begin

Please review the [Handbook for Preparation for Commissioned Ruling Elders \(CRE\) To Particular Pastoral Service](#), available on the Presbytery of Baltimore's website (baltimorepresbytery.org/cpm).

You will need the following information to complete this application:

- A letter of reference from your pastor or the moderator of your congregation's Session
- A letter of reference from a member of your congregation
- A letter of reference from another individual who can speak to your personal and professional character.
- The year of your baptism
- The year of your profession of faith
- The date you joined your current congregation
- Dates of your ordination(s)

About the process

As outlined in the Handbook for Preparation for Commissioned Ruling Elders, the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and Commission on Ministry (COM) collaborate on certification and commissioning. Because of this, you will be in contact with both commissions throughout the duration of the preparation and commissioning process.

1. Contact the chair of the CPM to briefly discuss your interest in service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder or Commissioned Lay Pastor.
2. After you have contacted the chair of the CPM, you should begin completing your application. While you are doing so, Presbytery staff will facilitate conversation between your congregation and the COM.



3. The Session of your congregation will meet with you to discuss your potential service as a CRE or CLP. This will be the final endorsement needed before meeting with the CPM.
4. Finally, after submitting your application and Session endorsement, you will meet with the CPM for a 15-30 minute interview. At this interview, you will discuss your course of preparation and receive an opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns.

Key Contacts

Rev. Michael Cuppett

Chair, Commission on
Preparation for Ministry

mcuppett@catonsvillepres.org
(410) 747-6180

Rev. Mary Gaut

Stated Clerk, Presbytery of
Baltimore

mgaut@baltimorepresbytery.org
(410) 404-2161

Rev. Edwin Lacy

Presbytery of Baltimore

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(410) 433-2012



Section 1: Personal Information

First name

Last name

Pronouns (opt.)

Primary phone

Email

Please provide any family information you consider relevant to your application:

Section 2: Church Information

Year of baptism

Year of profession of faith

Church of membership

Date joined

Date of ordination as elder

Date of ordination as deacon (if applicable)

List your areas of involvement in the life and mission of the church, both as a participant and a leader. Indicate current areas of involvement with an asterisk (*).



Section 3: References

These should be the same individuals who submitted letters of recommendation.

Pastoral Recommendation

First name Last name

Primary phone Email

Member Recommendation

First name Last name

Primary phone Email

Other Recommendation

First name Last name

Primary phone Email



Section 4: Academic Information

List the academic institutions you have attended, beginning with high school, and complete the information in each column. If you are currently participating in an educational program, please include it as well.

Institution	Dates attended	Program/major	Diploma/degree

List your strongest subjects and least strong subjects for each level of education. You can simply list the subjects; no explanation is needed.

Institution	Strongest subjects
High school	
Undergraduate	
Graduate	
Postgraduate	
Vocational/Trade	



Academic information (continued)

List the name, date, and institution for any instruction/coursework you have received in the following areas. Describe briefly.

Biblical Studies

[Empty text box for Biblical Studies]

Reformed Theology

[Empty text box for Reformed Theology]

Worship and Sacraments

[Empty text box for Worship and Sacraments]

Presbyterian Polity

[Empty text box for Presbyterian Polity]

Preaching

[Empty text box for Preaching]

Pastoral Care

[Empty text box for Pastoral Care]

Teaching/education

[Empty text box for Teaching/education]



Section 5: Occupational Information

List your most recent positions in the chart below. If a position is part time or on a contract basis, please indicate with an asterisk (*).

Most recent position

Employer _____
Dates employed

Job Title

What did you enjoy the most about this position? What did you enjoy the least?

Second-most recent position

Employer _____
Dates employed

Job Title

What did you enjoy the most about this position? What did you enjoy the least?

Third-most recent position

Employer _____
Dates employed

Job Title

What did you enjoy the most about this position? What did you enjoy the least?



Section 6: Questions for Reflection

Please submit a separate document with reflections on the following questions. Be sure to label each question. Include your name and date on each page of the document.

1. Describe yourself as a person.
2. Briefly describe your sense of call and understanding of what it means to be a commissioned lay pastor. Include the most important events, experiences, and persons that have prompted you to apply for lay pastoral ministry.
3. Write a brief statement of your personal faith. Include what you believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and your relationship to them.
4. What does it mean to you to be a Presbyterian?
5. Describe your current spiritual practices and disciplines.

Section 7: Certification of Application

I hereby apply to enroll in preparation for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) and Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLPs) in the Presbytery of Baltimore. I understand that successful certification as a candidate ready for commissioning does not guarantee placement as a CRE or CLP. I understand that I have not been admitted to the preparation process until examined and enrolled by the Commission on Preparation for Ministry. I certify that all the information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Furthermore, I certify that (a) no civil, criminal, or ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained or is pending against me for sexual misconduct; and (b) I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.

Signature

Date

Name (printed)