

Below are the texts for proposed revisions in two sections of the Presbytery Manual. These revisions are being recommended by the CPM and COM respectively to bring the Manual into alignment with the changes in the CRE program which both groups have approved. The changes acknowledge that there are two “tracks” to becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder: 1. A comprehensive program preparing a ruling elder to assume the responsibilities of pastor in a congregation (Commissioned Lay Pastor) or 2. A ruling elder commissioned for a particular service in a congregation such as officiating at communion in the absence of a pastor. The program revisions outline the steps for applications, training, and placement appropriate to one of the tracks.

The manual sections below have been revised to bring clarity to the roles of CPM and COM and reflect the language and purpose of the two-track CRE program.

The current language can be found in the manual found on the website at <https://baltimorepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/PresbyteryManual.pdf>

Recommended Manual section for CREs in the CPM section

7.8.5.3. Responsibilities concerning Commissioned Ruling Elders/Commissioned Pastors:

To receive applications from elders of churches in the Presbytery to be Commissioned to limited pastoral service (CRE) or as a Commissioned Pastor (CLP), to maintain a roll of elders who have applied; supervise their preparation according to the process outlined in *the Handbook for preparation of Commissioned Ruling Elders*; examine them as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, certify them ready to be commissioned, and present candidates in person to the Presbytery for examination and commissioning to a particular service approved by the COM

7.8.5.4. To maintain and publish a *Handbook for the Preparation of Commissioned Ruling Elders* that will establish internal procedures for carrying out these duties and responsibilities.

7.8.5.5. Together with the COM to review annually the status of Elders who are certified but have not yet been commissioned. After three years of non-commissioned status, ruling elders certified ready for commissioning will be deleted from the list of ruling elders certified ready.

RECOMMENDED MANUAL section for CREs IN THE COM SECTION

7.9.5.4. Empowerments and Responsibilities concerning Commissioned Ruling Elders:

7.9.5.4.1. Recommend those churches, new church developments, and or specific ministries appropriate to be served by a commissioned ruling elder (CRE) , including as Commissioned Pastor (CP)

7.9.5.4.2. Recommend to Presbytery the commissioning to these ministries of persons certified as ready to be commissioned and monitor the ministries of Commissioned Pastors to ensure the continuing suitability and benefit of the appointed ministry.

7.9.5.4.3. Supervise the Commissioned Pastors in this Presbytery and appoint a Mentor in accordance with G-2.1004 and

7.9.5.4.4 Approve renewing the -commissioning of a CRE or CP to a new term in the same commission,

7.9.5.4.5. Review regularly the *Handbook on Preparation for Commissioned Ruling Elders*, and to recommend any changes to the CPM.

7.9.5.4.6 To review annually the roll of previously commissioned ruling elders and recommend ways to maintain certified status while remaining open to another commission

7.9.5.4.5.6 Review annually the status of ruling elders who are certified and have been commissioned but are currently without a commission and delete from this roll any who have been without a commission for three or more years. Those who are deleted from this roll and wish to be certified ready for commissioning must re-apply through the Commission on Preparation for Ministry.