



Comparing Commissioned Ministry

	Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)	Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP)
Scope of ministry	Single pastoral function*	All pastoral functions*
Educational prerequisites	Bachelor's degree	Bachelor's degree
Coursework	Limited coursework that is relevant to the pastoral function	General, holistic coursework in biblical studies, Reformed theology, worship, polity, pastoral care, and homiletics
Time commitment once commissioned	<10 hours per week	≥10 hours per week

Comparing Preparation

	Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)	Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP)
Vocational and psychological assessment required?	✗	✓
Field internship required?	✗	✓
Dismantling Racism training required?	✓	✓
Healthy Boundaries training required?	✓	✓
Biblical exegesis paper required?	✗	✓
Sermon manuscript and recording required?	✗	✓
Mentorship after commissioning	✗	✓

* Examples of pastoral functions include (but are not limited to): administering sacraments; officiating weddings or funerals; and moderating a Session.