

## **Policy and Program for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) for the Presbytery of San Jose**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the roles, responsibilities, education, and accountability measures for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs). This policy aims to ensure that CREs are well-prepared for their ministry and accountable in their service to the church and community.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all individuals serving as Commissioned Ruling Elders within The Presbytery of San Jose.

### **Definitions**

- **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE):** A ruling elder who is commissioned by the Presbytery to serve in a specific pastoral role within a congregation or in a validated ministry.

### **Role and Responsibilities**

CREs are commissioned to perform specific pastoral duties which may include:

- Leading worship and preaching.
- Administering sacraments.
- Providing pastoral care.
- Moderating session meetings.
- Engaging in community outreach and mission activities.
- Performing administrative duties as assigned by the session or Presbytery.

### **Oversight**

The CRE policy and program will be under the oversight of a newly established CRE Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry (COM). The Subcommittee will also have at least two representatives from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM).

### **Education Requirements**

To ensure that CREs are well-prepared for their ministry, the following educational requirements are recommended. The specific requirements will be determined in consultation with and approved by the CRE Subcommittee.

1. **Theological Education:** CREs should complete a course of study in Reformed theology, Bible, preaching, worship, sacraments, pastoral care, PC(USA) polity, and church history. This can be accomplished through a seminary, approved lay training programs, or other Presbytery-approved educational institutions.
2. **Practical Training:** CREs should participate in practical training opportunities, such as internships, supervised ministry experiences, and workshops on pastoral skills.

**Committee on Ministry First Reading**

3. **Continuing Education:** CREs are encouraged to engage in ongoing education through attending conferences, seminars, and additional coursework to stay current with theological and pastoral developments.

## **Procedure**

1. **Discernment and Nomination:** Potential CREs are identified and recommended by their session and must undergo a period of discernment. Following discernment, the session may nominate the individual to undertake the CRE process.
2. **Training:** Applicants must complete the required education and training, and pass an examination by the CRE Subcommittee covering theology, Bible, PC(USA) polity, and pastoral skills.
3. **Examination:** When the CRE Subcommittee believes the Applicant is ready to serve in a specific pastoral role within a congregation or in a validated ministry, it shall make a recommendation to the COM. COM shall interview the Applicant and, if it agrees that the Applicant is prepared for the particular CRE role, it will deem the Applicant ready for commissioning and report this action to the Presbytery.
4. **Commissioning Service:** Upon favorable recommendation by COM, the church or other organization for which the Applicant will be serving as a CRE will conduct a commissioning service to formally commission the individual as a CRE

## **Accountability**

To maintain high standards of accountability, the following measures are implemented:

1. **Supervision and Support:** CREs will be assigned a mentor or supervisor by the CRE Subcommittee, typically a teaching elder or experienced ruling elder, who will provide guidance, support, and supervision.
2. **Regular Reporting:** CREs are required to submit regular reports to the session and Presbytery (through the CRE Subcommittee) on their ministry activities, challenges, and achievements.
3. **Performance Reviews:** The Presbytery (through the CRE Subcommittee) will conduct annual performance reviews to assess the effectiveness of the CRE's ministry and identify areas for growth and development.
4. **Code of Conduct:** CREs must adhere to a code of conduct that includes maintaining confidentiality, demonstrating ethical behavior, and upholding the values and doctrines of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
5. **Conflict Resolution:** A clear process for addressing conflicts, grievances, and disciplinary issues involving CREs will be established by the Presbytery (through the CRE Subcommittee or the COM).

## **Review and Renewal**

1. **Term of Service:** CREs are commissioned for a specific term, typically renewable every three years, subject to a review by the Presbytery.
2. **Recommissioning:** At the end of each term, the Presbytery will conduct a comprehensive review of the CRE's ministry before deciding on recommissioning for another term.

**Role and Status at Presbytery Meetings**

The parity of ruling elders and teaching elders in the life and governance of the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA), specifically, and in the Reformed traditions, generally, is a significant and essential theological expression of what it means to be a church which dignifies the “priesthood of all believers” and the gifts of all of God’s people. It is understood that: (1) only a CRE who is functionally serving in a congregational ministry as pastor/head of staff, or (2) who is a ruling elder commissioner from a session to Presbytery, shall be accorded the right and privilege of voice and vote in Presbytery. For all other CREs, they shall be accorded the privilege of voice only in Presbytery; such privilege shall be accorded for the duration of their active commission.

**Conclusion**

The role of a Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Pastor is vital to the ministry and mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA). By adhering to this policy, we ensure that CREs are well-prepared, supported, and held accountable in their service to God and the church community.

# Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Equipping Program



## **Steps Paper and Forms**

for becoming a CRE

# A Helpful Timeline for the process of becoming

## a Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service (known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in The Book of Order)

Presbyterians are known for doing things “Decently and in Order” and doing much of their work in committees. This does support a democratic and fair procedure but can make our processes sometimes feel long and arduous. We have prepared this CRE time-line to help those wanting to navigate the process better by understanding important deadlines and anticipate how long each step in the process may take.

Following are *estimated times* required for each of the steps in the process.

As you begin the process, you will have to work with your Pastor and Session to have forms CRE Application Forms 1A, 1B & 1C filled out. Since most Sessions only meet once a month, you will need to work with the Pastor to get on the Session docket. Plan on this taking **about 2 months**.

After the meeting with the Pastor and Session, you should follow up with them to make sure they have turned in the forms to the CRE Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry (COM) through the Executive Presbyter.

After you submit your application forms (*Forms CRE-1A, B & C*) to the CRE/CP Subcommittee they will assign you a liaison. The liaison will work with you and your congregation during this process. You should be contacted by your liaison shortly after that person is assigned.

Also at the start of your program you will need to work with your liaison and supervisor to begin to envision the details of what specialized ministry(s) you are being set aside for and to determine your plan of study (*Planning Forms CRE-2A and 2B*).

When you have finished all your required class work, you will work with your liaison to schedule a time for examination by the CRE Subcommittee. **One month before** this meeting you will need to send in your Commissioning Forms: Brief Statement of Faith, Biographical History, *Commissioning Approval Forms CRE-3A, 3B, and 3C*, along with Continuing Development Form 4A.

Because the CRE Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry, all their actions must be approved by COM (which meets once a month). Because of when these groups meet and the lead time to get on dockets, it takes **at least 3 months** (longer during summer and holidays) to complete the process of approving you as CRE after your examination. You need to consider this when planning the Presbytery service of worship when you will be commissioned.

You need to attend the COM meeting where you will be approved as a CRE. COM's approval will be included in the COM next report to Presbytery, so you will most likely be introduced to the Presbytery, either by video or in person.

If you add up all the times outlined here you can see that the CRE commissioning process from start to finish can take ***18 months and longer*** depending on when you start the program and how much time you can give to the work involved. Though this might seem long it is really a very good season to discern your call and work with others in helping you shape your call to CRE ministry as you prepare for this important work.

To ensure that CREs are well-prepared for their ministry, the following educational requirements are recommended. The specific requirements will be determined in consultation with and approved by the CRE Subcommittee.

4. **Theological Education:** CREs should complete a course of study in Reformed theology, Bible, preaching, worship, sacraments, pastoral care, and church history. This can be accomplished through a seminary, approved lay training programs, or other presbytery-approved educational institutions.
5. **Practical Training:** CREs should participate in practical training opportunities, such as internships, supervised ministry experiences, and workshops on pastoral skills.
6. **Continuing Education:** CREs are encouraged to engage in ongoing education through attending conferences, seminars, and additional coursework to stay current with theological and pastoral developments.

## QUESTIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Executive Presbyter, The Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa,  
[Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org), (408) 763-5004 or  
Stated Clerk, The Rev. Erica Rader, [Erica@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Erica@sanjosepby.org)

DRAFT Minutes, November 23, 2024 Stated Meeting  
**APPENDIX D**  
**Committee on Ministry First Reading**

## APPLICATION (to be completed by the CRE Candidate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Agency \_\_\_\_\_ If PCUSA, Presbytery \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date received into membership \_\_\_\_\_ Date Ordained as Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_

Education History:

School \_\_\_\_\_ Years Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Degree & Major \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Essay Questions:** (attach to application on separate sheet)

Why are you applying to this program?

What gifts and skills do you bring to being a CRE (languages, education, experience etc.).

In what areas do you feel you need further preparation in being an effective church leader?

Write a brief one page statement of your personal faith.

Write a brief one-page personal biographical history

**References:** Please list the names of two references who are not immediate family members and can comment on your gift of ministry as a leader in the church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby authorize the CRE/CP program committee to contact the above people as to my suitability for this program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Email your completed application to: [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org) QUESTIONS*

*AND FURTHER INFORMATION*

**Contact Executive Presbyter, The Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa,  
[Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org), (408) 763-5004 or Stated Clerk, The Rev.  
Erica Rader, [Erica@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Erica@sanjosepby.org)**

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## SUPERVISING PASTOR'S STATEMENT

### **Must be a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA and within the Presbytery of San Jose**

\_\_\_\_\_ is applying to become part of the Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service (CRE) equipping program. This program is designed to provide basic tools for ministry and training for people who have displayed a level of maturity and commitment and who see further training in pastoral roles of leadership and ministry. Your approval and recommendation are prerequisites for enrollment in this training program. Please comment on the following areas. (Please use extra sheets as needed)

Comment on this candidate's level of commitment to his/her local congregation.

List the areas of candidate's involvement in the church.

Comment on this candidate's leadership abilities.

What makes this person a good candidate for this training program?

What are areas of growth for this candidate for leadership in the church?

Comment on any needs that might require special attention during the training of this candidate.

Other comments.

Supervising Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Church or Agency \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and Email to: [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org)**

## QUESTIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

**Contact Executive Presbyter, The Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa,  
[Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org), (408) 763-5004 or Stated Clerk, The Rev.  
Erica Rader, [Erica@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Erica@sanjosepby.org)**

*Application Form CRE-1C*

## Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service

(known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in the PCUSA Book of Order)

### SESSION RECOMMENDATION & COVENANT WITH CRE

The Session of \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_  
discussed and approved the recommendation of \_\_\_\_\_  
for admission to the Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service (CRE) Equipping  
Program of the Presbytery of San Jose

The Session and Supervising Pastor have discussed the role of a CRE and the anticipated position for ministry in this congregation with the candidate. The Session has assessed the candidate's spiritual maturity and gifts for ministry and feel that this candidate is being called by God to prepare for service in this ministry position.

The Session and Supervising Pastor understand and accept the obligation to provide support to this candidate in the following areas:

- Spiritual support and encouragement praying regularly for the candidate
- Financial support in the following amounts”

Books \_\_\_\_\_

Tuition \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

- Give opportunities to fulfill directed experiential learning assignments with the congregation
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures:

Clerk of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Moderator of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and Email to: [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org)**

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**(known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in the PCUSA Book of Order)**INITIAL DESCRIPTION OF POSSIBLE CRE/CP MINISTRY POSITION**

*This CRE pastoral position description can be generated by a Session seeking a CRE to fulfill unmet needs of a congregation or as a response to gifts of a possible candidate to serve the church where the candidate's gifts and the congregation's needs complement each other. This description of the ministry could change during the training of a candidate for the ministry.*

This position will provide ministry at \_\_\_\_\_

Name of CRE candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Description of ministry needs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How the congregation will support the work of the CRE? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach additional information on separate sheet)

Job responsibilities might include:

<input type="checkbox"/> Worship Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship	<input type="checkbox"/> *Administer Baptism
<input type="checkbox"/> Preaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing/Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> *Administer Communion
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration/Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> *Moderate Session
<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Incarceration/Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> *Perform Marriage
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Racial Justice	
<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> Orphan/Foster Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Church Development		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

\*The Presbytery must explicitly commission a CRE to these activities during the approval process:  
 Administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, moderate the Session, and perform a Christian marriage (when invited by the session and allowed by the State of California)

The CRE's supervisor will be: \_\_\_\_\_

(ordinarily Moderator of the Session but must be a Minister of Word and Sacrament)

*Signatures:*

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CRE Program Liaison \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and Email to: [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org)**

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**(known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in the PCUSA Book of Order)**EDUCATIONAL/PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Coursework:** Training to be commissioned as a CRE includes coursework in a variety of disciplines to fully equip a CRE candidate as a ministry practitioner of the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition. The specific set of classes that will be required for the CRE candidate will fulfill will be tailored to the specific needs of the ministry to which they will be commissioned. The CRE candidate, together with their liaison and the CRE Subcommittee, will jointly discuss and determine the specific set of educational requirements, as well as any internship, externship, or practical learning modalities as needed. The following are some of the classes that might be considered:

**1. Theology**

- Reformed Theology
- Reformed Worship/Sacraments
- Theological Ethics
- Missional Ecclesiology

**2. Biblical Studies and Comparative Religions**

- Hermeneutics
- Overview of the Bible
- Biblical Exegesis
- Comparative Religions

**3. Practical Ministry**

- \*Multi-Cultural Church Leadership
- Community-Based Mission
- Organizational Leadership
- Liturgy Development
- Finance/Administration

**4. Pastoral Care and Ministry**

- \*PCUSA Church Polity
- Pastoral Counseling
- Pastoral Self-Care
- Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution
- Homiletics

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Directed Experiential Learning**

***In the space below, please provide the Educational/Practical requirements agreed upon between the CRE candidate, liaison, and the CRE Subcommittee***

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*Signatures:*

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CRE Program Liaison \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and Email to: [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org)**

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**  
 (known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in the PCUSA Book of Order)

*Commissioning Form CRE-3A*

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**

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**TERMS OF APPOINTMENT & COVENANT WITH CRE**

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Session or Board action \_\_\_\_\_

This commission will provide ministry at \_\_\_\_\_ (community served)

Terms of the Commission (up to three years) \_\_\_\_\_ (begins) \_\_\_\_\_ (ends)

Short Job Description \_\_\_\_\_

Job responsibilities might include:

<input type="checkbox"/> Worship Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship
<input type="checkbox"/> Preaching (how often _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing/Homelessness
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration/Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Incarceration/Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Racial Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> Orphan/Foster Care
<input type="checkbox"/> New Church Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

Request for authority granted by presbytery for Commissioned Pastor to:

- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism
- Administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- Moderate the Session, when invited
- Perform a Service of Christian Marriage (when invited by the session and allowed by the state of California)

The CRE's supervisor is \_\_\_\_\_ (must be Minister of Word and Sacrament)

*Signatures:*

CRE Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Examination by the CRE Subcommittee \_\_\_\_\_

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Date of Presbytery Approval of the Administrative Commission \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Commissioning of CRE (the Commissioning Service) \_\_\_\_\_

**TERMS OF APPOINTMENT & COVENANT WITH CRE****(OTHER DETAILS OF COMMISSION)**

Name of Church Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Name of CRE \_\_\_\_\_

This covenant has been reviewed and approved by the Session or responsible agency board and reviewed by the CRE Subcommittee and its agents. This relationship may be terminated prior to its expiration with 30 days' notice by the CRE or Session/Board with concurrence of the CRE Subcommittee or Committee on Ministry.

Time expectations (per week or month) \_\_\_\_\_

Specific days of ministry (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Reimbursement plans

Salary or stipend \_\_\_\_\_

Travel reimbursement @ \_\_\_\_ cents per mile

Other ministry cost reimbursement \_\_\_\_\_

Book allowance \_\_\_\_\_

Vacation time \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing education allowance \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing education time \_\_\_\_\_

Other compensation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical coverage (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**(known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in the PCUSA Book of Order)**SIGNATURES**

CRE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Session or Board \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANS FOR CRE COMMISSIONING**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Details for Commissioning Service** (*This service should take place other than Sunday morning so that members of Presbytery may attend.*)

Zoom Link or Physical Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Will Communion be served? \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Administrative Commission** (The following have agreed to serve)

Moderator of Presbytery or Designee (Teaching or Ruling Elder?) \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Elder and Church \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Elder and Church \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Elder and Church (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Ruling Elder and Church \_\_\_\_\_

Ruling Elder and Church \_\_\_\_\_

Ruling Elder and Church (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_

For an Administrative Commission the Presbytery of San Jose requires a minimum of 6 members (3 teaching elders, 3 ruling elders), and all must be members of the Presbytery of San Jose. Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders must be from different congregations. Teaching elders who are honorably retired and who are members of the Presbytery of San Jose may also serve on the Administrative Commission. Teaching elders who are members of another presbytery but who reside within the geographical bounds of the Presbytery of San Jose may serve on the Administrative Commission as corresponding members.

The current Moderator of Presbytery or his/her/their designee presides as Moderator of the Administrative Commission and is part of the required 5 members. It is the candidate's

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**

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responsibility to contact the members to serve. Inclusivity is expected with regard to representation as to congregations, gender, ethnicity, age, etc.

One month before the Presbytery meeting where the Candidate is presented, he/she /they will need to turn in the a one-page Statement of Faith and one-page Biographical History. These versions of the Statement of Faith and Bio will be the final form after meeting for examination with the CRE Subcommittee and COM.

**Complete and Email to:** [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org)

**Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service**  
(known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in the PCUSA Book of Order)

## CRE First year Growth Objectives and Program Review

check box if new information on the form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone (home):** \_\_\_\_\_  **(mobile):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_  **Congregation name and city:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Commissioning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Years:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Annual Review:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Growth Objectives for the coming year** (about one paragraph for each question)

Educational (classes to take, books to read, etc.)

Spiritual Development (working with a spiritual director, the practice of spiritual disciplines, etc.)  
Interpersonal Development (time with family/friends, small groups attended, etc.)

Personal Development (exercise, vacation time, eating well, etc.)

Professional Development (plans for future, classes taken, conferences to attend, etc.)

### **CRE Preparation Experience** (about one paragraph for each question)

What classes were most valuable to you and why?

What classes were least valuable and why?

How well were you supported/mentored by your Church and the CRE Program?

How can we improve upon the CRE equipping program?

Do you have any additional classes to suggest or instructors to recommend?

What are your plans for renewal of commissioning when the time comes?

**Additional Comments:** What else would you like us to know?

**Complete and Email to:** [Neal@sanjosepby.org](mailto:Neal@sanjosepby.org)

**For questions or information contact your liaison**

*Appendix A*

## Commissioned Ruling Elder to Particular Pastoral Service

(known as **Commissioned Pastor** or CP in The Presbytery of San Jose)

### **Guidance for your brief statement of faith**

As you prepare for your examination to be commissioned as a CRE you will need to present a short Statement of Faith. Your Statement should no more than one page long and include the list of topics below. This list is not comprehensive but it is helpful to include them. We encourage you to be creative and let “you” shine through. We want your statement to be personal, to clearly be your own, not to be trite or a “cookie cutter” Statement of Faith. That being said, below are a list of topics you should include.

The CRE Subcommittee, your liaison, your supervisor, and your support network will help you look at your statement of faith and make suggestions where needed. Your one-page Statement of Faith and your one-page biography (a separate document) will be included with the documents that go to the Committee on Ministry when your commissioning is approved.

Here are some topics that you should include.

- The Trinity
- God
- Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- The Bible
- The Church, its nature and mission
- Sin/brokenness
- Forgiveness/Reconciliation
- Salvation
- The Sacraments
- Eschatology – that part of theology concerned with death, judgement, and the final destiny of the soul and humankind, the in-breaking of God’s promise in the present

These topics can be woven into others and don’t have to be fully examined. Lean on us as needed with developing your brief statement of faith.