

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

(Approved by the Presbytery of Hudson River: 5-23-17)

Purpose: The purpose of the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** (CPM) is to nurture, guide, and support women and men as they discern/confirm God's call to ordination as ministers of Word and Sacrament or commissioning as ruling elder, assessing call and skills for ministry and overseeing all the appropriate requirements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Accountability: CPM shall be accountable to the HRP.

Membership: CPM shall consist of nine (9) voting members, comprised of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible, nominated by the Committee on Representation and Nominations and elected by HRP; these persons will preferably have knowledge and/or experience with the discernment process for one becoming a Teaching Elder or a Ruling Elder with a commission. The term of service is three (3) years with the eligibility to serve two full terms or a maximum of six (6) consecutive years. The chair shall also be nominated by the Committee of Representation and Nominations and elected by the presbytery for a one year term which may be renewable. The Dean of the (Commission Ruling Elder) Seminar and the Personnel Committee appointed staff liaison shall be ex officio members with voice but no vote.

Meetings: CPM will meet as necessary, not less than quarterly.

Responsibilities:

The CPM shall have commission powers to act on behalf of and with the full authority of the presbytery in between meetings of the presbytery (G-3.0109) in the following ways:

For those who are pursuing ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament (G-2.06):

1. Authorize and manage for inquirers and candidates such third party evaluations as may be required, including psychological evaluations and background screening.
2. Admit persons to inquirer status.
3. Admit persons to candidate status and present them to Presbytery for confirmation.
4. Transfer inquirers and candidates to other presbyteries and receive inquirers and candidates by transfer from other presbyteries.
5. Perform annual consultations with inquirers and candidates.
6. Remove an individual from inquirer or candidate status.
7. Approve candidates to sit for the standard ordination exams.
8. Certify candidates ready to receive a call and give them permission to circulate their Personal Information Form.

For those who are pursuing a commission as a commissioned ruling elder (G-2.10):

1. Develop a process and criteria for the training of ruling elders desiring to serve as a commissioned ruling elder within the presbytery.
2. Admit and remove persons to the program.

3. Oversee the preparation and training of those seeking to become commissioned ruling elders in accordance with those criteria.
4. Oversee the Dean of the Seminar, which is contracted, approving the position description, terms and pay.
5. Examine ruling elders who have completed all the requirements in order to determine whether or not to certify their readiness to receive a commission and communicate this to the Committee on Ministry.

In addition, the CPM is responsible for the following:

1. Educate and support councils/sessions on the importance of encouraging members to discern God's call to vocational ministry.
2. Consult with and counsel pastors and church councils/sessions regarding their inquirers and candidates.
3. Nominate readers for the standard examinations for ordination at the request of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for election by the presbytery (G-2.0607b and G-3.0302b).
4. Prepare and propose an annual budget.