

## **Commissioned Ruling Elder Process and Examination Overview**

All candidates for Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbytery of Arkansas shall engage in the process outlined below.

1. The candidate must complete appropriate educational requirements determined in consultation with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
2. During, or upon completion of course work, candidates will complete the following:
  1. Submit a personal statement of faith and sense of call to ministry.
  2. Develop and teach a two to four-week scripture-based class for Sunday school or other church function.
  3. Attend two Presbytery of Arkansas meetings.
  4. Read *Healthy Congregations* by Peter Steinke and give a brief written summary of learnings.
  5. Prepare, deliver, and submit in written form to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry three sermons.
3. Upon completion of the above tasks, the candidate will be examined in written form in the areas of Theology, Bible, Polity, Worship and Sacraments.

### **Instructions for the Examination**

1. The Commissioned Ruling Elder Examination shall be administered to any person completing CRE training, approved by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, wishing to be considered for a Commissioned Ruling Elder position. The written portion may be taken at a time and location approved by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. The date, time, and location shall be recorded and reported to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry after the examination is administered. This is a competency examination. Since the candidate is intending to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), the written portion of the examination shall be considered open-book. References and sources should be cited.
2. Write your name, your mailing address, and the current date on all pages.
3. When you finish the examination, please make a copy of all your work.
4. Submit to: Presbytery of Arkansas, 9221 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72227, or the email addresses of the General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and/or Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
5. Theology

- a. Pick one of the creeds or confessions of the church.
- b. What are the issues addressed?
- c. How does this creed/confession speak to issues in the church today?
- d. How does it apply to you and your ministry?

6. Bible

- a. What is your favorite Bible passage?
- b. Speak to this passage.
- c. How does this passage apply to you and your ministry?

7. Worship

- a. What is the purpose of the worship service?
- b. How do various parts of the service carry out the purpose?

8. Sacraments

- a. What are the Sacraments of the PC(USA)?
- b. Briefly describe the meaning of each of these sacraments.
- c. What do these sacraments say about who you are and your relationship to others?

9. Polity

Using the four major sections of the *Book of Order* speak to the following issue:

Plan for a congregational meeting. You are the moderator. The issue is the sale of church property. The congregation is evenly divided for and against the issue. During the meeting someone says, "The meeting is not in order! We only had four-weeks notice. That is too short a time to make this kind of decision." The vote is taken. It is a 50/50 tie. How do you proceed? During the congregational meeting another person says, "In light of the poor session leadership, I move that we elect new elders today!"

- a. Speak to these issues using the *Book of Order* with specific references.
- b. Speak to these issues pastorally.

Upon completion of the above requirements, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall determine the readiness of the candidate for service.

amended September 19, 2020