

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Application to Become a QRE (Qualified Ruling Elder) In Preparation for Becoming a CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder)

For Those Who Have Completed the Educational Process

If you have completed a formation process that is acceptable to the CRE Committee, you will need to supply the following documents and schedule an examination by the appropriate Community Commission on Ministry.

Endorsements

Each candidate for Qualified Ruling Elder (QRE) status needs to fill out the [application form](#) for the program with the endorsement of his/her session.

Formation Process

The CRE Committee of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina accepts the formation offered by:

- Its own program (being replaced by the Union Seminary online program)
- The [Union Presbyterian Seminary's](#) new online program (starts in September, 2016)
- The [South Carolina](#) weekend program at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC
- The [Dubuque Theological Seminary's](#) online program

Documents Required

In preparation for an examination by the Community Commission on Ministry you will need to provide the following documents:

1. Statement of Completion of CRE Preparation Courses from the Dean of your program
2. Statement of Faith
3. Biographical Sketch
4. Mental Health Report (psychological evaluation)
5. Answers to two (2) of the Ordination Questions
6. Signed Personal Information Form (PIF)
7. SafeGatherings Report – background check and boundary training
8. Acknowledgement of Ethics and Misconduct Policies
9. Photo for Website

[Details](#) on each of these documents are found in an attachment to this email.

Examination

When you have submitted all of these documents you will need to **schedule a exam** (interview) with the Commission on Ministry in your Missional Community:

- East: Robbie Phillips, Chair – phillips1@coastalnet.com
- Central: Jim Randall, Chair – pastorjim@ncrrbiz.com
- West: Rick Martindale, Chair – revmartindale@hotmail.com

When the Community COM approves your examination, your name will be added to the Supply Preaching List on the Presbytery's website and you can seek a contract with a local congregation to serve them as their CRE.

Commissioning as a Ruling Elder Commissioned to Pastoral Service (CRE)

Once you are recognized as a QRE you may seek an invitation to serve as a CRE in a particular congregation. Your name will be made available to congregations seeking a CRE and, when you are selected as their candidate, you will be invited to *another* meeting with the COM. This will

not be another examination of your qualifications, but rather an examination of the fit between you and the congregation. Members of the inviting session will also be asked to come to this meeting. If the COM feels that this is a good pastoral match for you and the church, then you will be approved for commissioning to that congregation. Only then (and only in that congregation) you may be authorized to perform the pastoral functions of moderating the session, administering the sacraments and performing marriages. (Each of these pastoral functions has to be approved on a case-by-case basis for each CRE and each congregation.)

When you are approved as a CRE you will be asked to submit the names of at least five (5) persons for the Administrative Commission (AC) that will commission you. Please refer to the guidelines for ACs on the Presbytery's website. You will also need a teaching elder mentor with whom you can consult as you enter into this new ministry.

Service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

Each year as you serve as a CRE you will need to have both your mentor (supervisor) and your session to fill out the annual evaluations on your ministry. In addition you will need to complete 20 hours of continuing education and report this each year to the Commission on Ministry during the Annual Statistical Report process. Commissions can be for up to three (3) years, but a renewal request with your terms of call is needed each year from the session of the church you serve.