

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina  
Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

## **Steps to Commissioning**

**Note:** Persons recognized as Qualified Ruling Elders (QREs) or Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) must have been ordained as Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for at least one year. Anyone can take the training outlined below, but cannot become a QRE or CRE unless they have been elected, examined, and ordained as a Ruling Elder. In addition QREs and CREs must be examined and approved by their Community Commission on Ministry.

1. Have a Personal Interest in Serving
2. Complete Registration Form
3. Get Endorsement by Session (must be completed before starting year two)
4. Take Introductory Bible Classes Through Presbytery or Union Seminary
5. Take Year One Classes Through Union Presbyterian Seminary (or other approved program)
6. Have a Mentor Appointed by the Elder Ministries Committee
- 7. Before Year Two**
  - a. Complete Full Application Form (includes session endorsement)
  - b. Undertake Psychological Evaluation (shared cost: candidate, session, presbytery)
  - c. Have an Admission Interview led by Elder Ministries Committee
8. Take Year Two Classes Through Union Presbyterian Seminary (or other approved program)
9. Complete Internship (supervised by Elder Ministries Committee)
10. Prepare a Brief (One Page) Statement of Faith
11. Be Declared “Ready to Be Examined by COM” by the Elder Ministries Committee
12. Undertake QRE Evaluation (Exam) – organized by Community COM
13. Be Added to Preaching Supply List and Available for Potential Match with Congregation(s)
14. Pastoral Relationship Approved by Community COM
15. Commissioned to Pastoral Service by COM
- 16. Following Commissioning:**
  - a. Fulfill Continuing Education Requirements (20 hours) Annually (also required of QREs)
  - b. Undertake Annual Review (session & mentor)