

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 and Phase One Classes through Union Presbyterian Seminary (or other approved program)
5. Select a Mentor to be Approved Appointed by the Elder Ministries Committee
- 6. Before Year Two**
 - a. Complete Full Application Form (includes session endorsement)
 - b. Undertake Psychological Evaluation (shared cost: candidate, session, presbytery) *See page 12 for details.*
 - c. Have an Admission Interview led by Elder Ministries Committee
7. Take Phase Two Classes Through Union Presbyterian Seminary (or other approved program)
8. Complete Internship (supervised by Elder Ministries Committee)
9. Be Declared “Ready to Be Examined by COM” by the Elder Ministries Committee
10. Prepare a Brief (one page) Statement of Faith and answers to two Ordination Questions
11. Undertake QRE Evaluation (Exam) – organized by Community COM
12. Be Added to Preaching Supply List and Available for Potential Match with Congregation(s)
13. Pastoral Relationship Approved by Community COM
14. Commissioned to Pastoral Service by COM
- 15. Following Commissioning:**
 - a. Fulfill Continuing Education Requirements (20 hours) Annually (also required of QREs)
 - b. Undertake Annual Review (session & mentor)
 - c. Submit Renewal of Contract each year to COM (commissions may be granted for three years at a time, but the contract – including terms of call and review of service, continuing education, etc. must be renewed *each year.*)