

Presbytery of New Covenant
Written Examination For Commissioned Lay Pastors
(drafted November 15, 1997, Commissioned Lay Pastors Committee meeting)

Personal Faith and Motives:

Write a brief statement (1-2 pages) giving your personal faith beliefs, and a paragraph commenting on your sense of call to this ministry.

Theology:

List and briefly explain five major tenets of Reformed Theology. In addition, choose one and write at least one paragraph explaining it, and then comment on how this doctrine works in your personal life and in the life of the church.

History:

Pick one of the creeds or confession of the church:

Name some of the issues that led to the original writing of the creed/confession.

How does this creed/confession speak to issues in the church today?

Bible:

What are four major messages of the Old Testament?

What are four major themes found in the New Testament?

Write briefly on one theme each from the Old and New Testaments, telling how this theme has been evident in your life.

Teaching:

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Presbyterian Curriculum?

What other Resources might you suggest for a study group?

What events in Presbytery will help strengthen your Christian Education efforts?

Design an outline for a confirmation class: include length of class and what would be covered in each class/retreat/event.

Polity:

What are the parts of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

What are the three major sections of the Book of Order--what does each section address?

Name the 4 governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church. What are some of the responsibilities of each?

Boundary Issues:

There is great concern in our Church regarding boundary issues. Write a paragraph to reflect on each of the following boundary issues:

1) Power/Relationships: what is the Commissioned Lay Pastor's role in dealing with the congregation, the Session, and leaders of the church? How might serving as a Commissioned Lay Pastor in your home congregation affect your position in the congregation?

2) Reflect on a responsible use of time as a Commissioned Lay Pastor: What is a responsible use of your time as you balance work, family, leisure and other commitments? Availability is often a question pastors must deal with in seeking a balanced life--will you need to set limits on your availability?

3) In 1994 New Covenant Presbytery adopted a sexual misconduct statement. What is your understanding of some of the issues involved--and how will these affect your work in the church--and particularly in pastoral care?

CLP ASSESSMENT

4) Reflect on some of the jurisdictional issues involved in being a Commissioned Lay Pastor: Commissioning is for a specific place and for a period of time (which can be renewed upon review). Reflect on the role/relationship of a Commissioned Lay Pastor in a congregational (or other setting) when the commissioned term is over.

Worship:

What is the purpose of the Sunday morning Worship Service?

How do the various parts of the Sunday service carry out that purpose?

Develop and outline a possible Sunday Morning Worship Service, including what you consider the essential elements. Indicate time allotments for each part of the service.

Preaching:

Choose a lectionary passage from one of the Sundays in the month of _____ on the basis of which you will preach an 8-12 minute sermon. Outline your steps of preparation for this sermon, citing the resources you used. Write a brief introduction for your sermon. Outline the main points of the sermon and write a brief conclusion for your sermon. Be prepared to preach your sermon to the group assembled for your examination.

Sacraments:

What are the Sacraments of the Presbyterian Church?

Briefly, what is the meaning of each of these sacraments?

What is a person's identity in the light of these sacraments? **OR:**

What do these sacraments say about who you are and your relationship to others?