

Commissioned Lay Pastor Ministry in the Presbytery of Northern New York

Acting CLP Administrator, Carol Drew
(315) 482-5460

cwd@imcnet.net

Discernment process:

- written application to the Committee on Ministry (COM)
- session endorsement
- interview with COM representatives & approval by Committee on Ministry

Educational requirements:

- Book of Order requires training in the following areas:
Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching
- Eight courses to fulfill Book of Order requirements (* denoted "core curriculum" see below)
Introduction to Old Testament (including exegesis)*
Introduction to New Testament (including exegesis)*
Reformed Theology*
Preaching*
Worship and Sacraments*
Presbyterian Polity
Pastoral Care
Teaching

The four core courses shall consist of either the Old or New Testament course and the other three marked above with an asterisk (*). The options for meeting these requirements shall be flexible. For example, a course offered within the presbytery, a course offered with/by ecumenical partners, a tutorial course, a course at an accredited seminary, a course at a college or university (that is shown to cover the appropriate material), an on-line course offered by a Reformed Seminary or university as

approved by the COM.

Evaluation and Certification: a "journey" with three "milestones"

1. approval by COM to supply pulpits
2. identification as a "Lay Pastor" certified ready to serve with a commission
3. commissioning to a specific place of service as a "Commissioned Lay Pastor"

Upon the completion of the four of five core courses, and upon the recommendation of the CLP Administrator and with the approval of COM, a CLP candidate may be added to the list of supply preachers published by the presbytery.

Upon completion of the full curriculum, a CLP candidate will be examined by COM towards recommendation to presbytery as LP status, certified ready for a call to serve as CLP. This examination shall include:

- presentation of a personal statement of faith
- presentation of a sermon (preferably orally) along with exegetical notes on the biblical passage(s) upon which the sermon is based
- examinations in the following areas (oral and/or written) modeled after the practically oriented questions in the standard ordination examinations: theology, worship and sacraments, pastoral care, teaching a self-evaluation

Continuing Education:

There shall be an annual continuing education requirement for all LPs and CLPs:

- Presbytery shall offer one continuing event annually of sufficient quality and interest to be attractive to both Lay Pastors and Pastors and financially underwritten by presbytery with some reasonable registration fee
- Avenues and options for meeting the annual requirement shall be varied and may be proposed by the LPs and CLPs to the COM through the CLP Administrator.
- The CLP Administrator shall convene regular (at least annual) gatherings of C/LPs for their mutual support

Administration and Support:

Proper administration and support will require the hiring of a part time CLP Program Administrator (similar to the Intern Administrator). The administrator's responsibilities shall include record keeping, monitoring of completion of program requirements, lodged in presbytery office files, and accessible to office staff contact person for persons inquiring about the program administrator of the education and continuing education programs resource person for course offerings by seminaries and ecumenical partners supervision and support for tutors and instructors in the educational program.

Fees

Lay Pastor candidate per course fee:

- Independent Study with PNNY Tutor: \$200.00
- PNNY Course with 3 or more participants: \$100.00
- Non-NNY Cooperative or on-line course: required by course
- Seminary or university course: required by course tutor fee for independent study projects: \$400.00
- Twenty contact hours by tutor with LP candidate @ \$20 per hour, to be paid from CLP training line. Instructor's fee for course instruction with three or more participants: \$500.00 - To be paid from CLP training line. Instructor fee for courses with taught by non-NNY teachers - To be negotiated as they are established with the teacher.

Book costs: Not included in course or tutor fees. CLP Administrator Stipend

- \$25 per contact hour, vouchered: maximum 40 hours per year. Max: \$1000.00
- Mileage at IRS rate, maximum. Max: \$500.00