

After Seminary...

...CNP groups convene to continue encouraging one another, and to hold one another accountable to their shared covenant.

Groups are led by a team of mentoring pastors with a demonstrated record of faithfulness, fruitfulness, and fulfillment in pastoral work.

The shape of these gatherings is flexible, so they can be melded with programmatic efforts sponsored by governing bodies for new pastors. But while the shape is flexible, the pattern of gathering around sustained theological reflection and ordered daily prayer will always lie at the core.

Each "company" becomes a close-knit community of friends who, together, keep fanning the flame of their common calling. Groups are intentionally small – fewer than 12 – so that each individual is a crucial part of the whole.



"Companies of New Pastors" are communities of pastors and candidates for ministry, who gather regularly with vocational mentors, bound in common covenant to engage the core apostolic practices of daily prayer, disciplined study, mutual encouragement and admonition, and table fellowship.

The Company of New Pastors

*Shaping and nurturing
the pastoral vocation*

*by engaging the
spiritual and intellectual practices
that sustain*

faithfulness

fruitfulness

fulfillment

in pastoral ministry

Further information on the *CNP* and other programs sponsored by the Office of Theology and Worship can be found at www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship. Project Director Sheldon Sorge can be reached at 888-728-7228, ext. 5310, or at ssorge@ctr.pcusa.org. Administrative Assistant Catherine Reuning may be contacted at ext. 5732, or emailed at creuning@ctr.pcusa.org.

Company of New Pastors



A Program of Vocational
Formation and Nurture
for
Pastoral Candidates
and New Pastors

Office of Theology and Worship
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



During Seminary...

...CNP members receive free subscriptions to the *Company of Pastors* calendar, with its daily reading guides from Scripture and Confessions, and the PCUSA's theological journal "for pastors, by pastors," *The Register of the Company of Pastors*.



The *Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer* book is given to all participants at the outset, to serve as an abiding guide for devotional life, both for groups as they gather and for each individual between gatherings.

Faculty mentors convene seminary groups monthly for meals, prayer and study, and all *CNP* student members gather once in Louisville during their senior year – all at no cost to them.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42

Why a "Company of New Pastors?"

Good and faithful ministry requires pastors to be rich in spiritual vitality, theological depth, personal integrity, and social wisdom. Continued abundance of these storehouses is best sustained in community with ministerial colleagues, under guidance of wise mentors. This is why John Calvin convened his "Venerable Company of Pastors," in which Genevan pastors met regularly to nurture their common vocation.

Like Jesus and the apostles, servants of the Gospel today need the encouragement of close vocational friends and mentors, in times of blessing and crisis alike. Pastoral isolation and loneliness are all too common, and the dark truth is that, amid ministry's myriad and daunting demands, many pastors neglect regular personal prayer, devotional Bible reading, and theological study. If habits that sustain faithful, fruitful, and fulfilling ministry are to be securely established, they must take root early in a pastor's vocational development. The *Company of New Pastors* answers this challenge by situating new pastors in covenant groups that nurture these practices during the critical years of preparing for and entering into ministry.

What are the main features of the *CNP* Covenant?

CNP members covenant to participate fully in *CNP* gatherings over a six-year period, unless prohibited by emergencies. This includes monthly gatherings while they are seminarians, followed by a series of five post-graduation consultations over the subsequent four years. They also covenant to maintain the daily spiritual disciplines of the *Company of Pastors* while they are part of *CNP*. These disciplines include daily prayer, readings from the biblical passages in the daily lectionary, study of assigned texts, and assigned daily readings from the *Book of Confessions*.

What is the *CNP* meeting schedule?

- Student groups meet monthly for their last three semesters in seminary, led by faculty mentors in systematic study of their ordination vows.
- Students from all campuses gather in Louisville for a national consultation during the fall semester of their senior year.
- Pastor mentors convene regional groups at sponsoring seminaries for a brief consultation about six months after graduation.
- The same groups gather on seminary campuses for a series of annual four-day Spring consultations, over the next four years.

Who is eligible, and how does one join *CNP*?

CNP faculty mentors on each seminary campus are the primary recruiters. Each year they recruit approximately 10 seminary students to form a new cohort to begin meeting in February of their second student year. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled as an Inquirer or Candidate for ordination in the PCUSA, and intent upon entering the vocation of pastoral ministry.

What if a participant decides not to enter pastoral ministry upon graduation from seminary?

Continued participation in such situations will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Lilly Endowment Funding...

...covers all costs of books, meals, lodging, and travel associated with *Company of New Pastors (CNP)* gatherings for the first two years. After that, a modest co-pay is gradually phased in.