

Training for Ruling Elders in Particular Pastoral Service



Offered by the Presbyteries of

Redstone
Pittsburgh
Upper Ohio Valley

Washington
Beaver Butler
Shenango



working together as the
Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation
Team (IPLF).



F2022

Ruling Elders in Particular Pastoral Service *(as lay preachers/pastors or Commissioned Pastors)*

The Presbytery is responsible for providing worship, preaching, the celebration of the sacraments, pastoral care and leadership for its churches. To provide proper training for authorized persons to preach and lead worship and offer other pastoral functions for churches, the Initially begun by the Presbyteries of Redstone, Washington, and Upper Ohio Valley, we have been joined by Pittsburgh, Beaver-Butler and Shenango Presbyteries.

The purpose of this program is to train ruling elders in church leadership, including Biblical and Theological studies, preaching, worship and sacraments and various areas of practical theology. Smaller churches in the presbyteries are looking for part-time commissioned pastors (CPs) to lead them. Some prefer having several preachers fill their pulpit on a rotating basis. They rely on lay preachers to do that. Churches of all sizes have a need to fill the pulpit for a week here and there. Again, this is a chance for a lay preacher to minister to a congregation. Larger churches may feel a need for someone to take on a particular ministry such as visiting the shut-ins. There is a need for people to pastor to the elderly in various care settings. There are increasing opportunities for Commissioned Pastors (CPs) or lay pastors to have a place in ministry.

Do you feel that God is calling you to a type of ministry serving churches week by week or as a commission? Do you feel this could be a vocation where you belong?

How the Program Works

There are three components to this 4 semester program.

Courses *(all 4 required)*

These classes have face-to-face meetings at least three times during the 15 week term. There will be online assignments also. They will be common to the whole cohort.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Biblical Literacy – New Testament | Term 1 |
| 2. Biblical Literacy – Old Testament | Term 2 |
| 3. Reformed Theology | Term 3 |
| 4. Reformed Worship/Sacraments | Term 4 |

Workshops *(participate in 6; 4 are required)*

The workshops will be led at each presbytery on a rotating basis. The format will be a 3-4 hour session on one day. You may attend the workshop in any presbytery to find a date that best suits your schedule. These may be taken simultaneously with the Courses.

<u>Required</u>	<u>Elective Examples</u>
Ethics/Boundaries	Advanced Reformed Theology
Pastoral Care	Advanced Scriptures
Polity	Church Leadership
Proclaiming the Word	Evangelism
	Spiritual Formation

Field Education/Practicum

(participate in each after completing the prerequisite)

Each Field Education/Practicum will be under the direction of an experienced supervisor.

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Prerequisite Workshop</u>
➤ Church Administration	Polity
➤ Pastoral Care	Pastoral Care
➤ Preaching	Proclaiming the Word
➤ Worship/Sacraments	Polity <i>and</i> Proclaiming the Word

Cost

Program is subsidized by the participating Presbyteries.

The cost to the participant is

\$250 per term for tuition.

That is a total cost of \$1000
for the coursework.

*All checks should be made payable to
"Redstone".*





The Synod of the Trinity
provided grant money
to underwrite the cost of
the establishment this program.

How to Apply

- Remove the Application/Endorsement form from the center of this booklet.
- Complete the application sections (*Part 1 and Part 2*).
- Meet with your Session for their endorsement and signature.
- Contact your presbytery to meet with the appropriate committee for their endorsement and signature.
- Once completed, return Application and Endorsements to the

IPLF Registrar
Presbytery of Redstone
1004 Mt. Pleasant Road
Greensburg, PA 15601
executive@redstonepresbytery.org

PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

*Ruling Elders in Particular Pastoral Service Program
Presbyteries of Beaver-Butler, Pittsburgh, Redstone, Shenango,
Upper Ohio Valley, & Washington*

Our presbytery committee has met with

We affirm this person's sense of call and
endorse his/her application to begin the program.

Committee of Presbytery

Signature of Chair of Committee

Date

SESSION ENDORSEMENT

Please consider how your Session might support this person – prayer, mentor, financial support, other ways.

Name of applicant _____

Church Name _____

1. How long has this person been a member of your congregation, and in what ways has he/she contributed to the ministry/mission of your congregation?
2. What gifts do you believe this person possesses to become a Commissioned Pastor?
3. Are there any barriers that will keep this person from being able to fulfill this special calling?
4. Is there any additional information about this person that would be helpful for us to know?
5. Is your Session able to support this person in one of the ways mentioned in the box above?

Moderator or Clerk of Session

Date

APPLICATION FORM – Part 1

*Ruling Elders in Particular Pastoral Service Program
Presbyteries of Beaver-Butler, Pittsburgh, Redstone, Shenango,
Upper Ohio Valley, & Washington*

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone #: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Education _____

Home Church _____

How long have you been a member of this church? _____

Offices held in Church or Presbytery _____

Will employment hinder your education? (yes/no) _____

If yes, explain. _____

Other Activities you are involved in that may help or hinder your education:

APPLICATION FORM – Part 2

Please write a short response to the following questions.

1. Briefly describe your Christian faith and faith journey.
2. What gifts do you possess that will help you to do this work?
3. Do you feel there are any barriers to your involvement in the program?
4. Anything else that will help the committee to know you and your motivations?

If accepted into this program, I commit myself to participate fully in all scheduled activities and assignments, including the supervision by my presbytery's oversight committee. I understand that completion of this program is mandatory before I can be considered for contracting as a Commissioned Pastor. I also understand that the completion of the program does not guarantee commissioning.

Signature of applicant

Date