

**Call to the Stated Meeting**  
**National Capital Presbytery**  
**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 5:00pm**  
**National Presbyterian Church - Hybrid**

**Stated Meeting Items:**

- 1) Worship Led by Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church
- 2) Election of Moderator and Vice-Moderator
- 3) Election of Stated Clerk search team
- 3) Approval of Commissioning Ruling Elder (CRE) Program
- 5) Recommendation from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)
- 6) Commissioning of General Assembly Commissioners

**Registration Link [HERE](#)**



May 13, 2022

Greetings, Siblings in Christ,

Over the past couple of years, we have all been - what's the right word now? - adapting, pivoting, transforming, adjusting, etc., as we have dealt with the circumstances of the day. As National Capital Presbytery gathers on May 24 to do the work of the church we will once again be modifying the way that we conduct our business. The meeting on May 24 will be a **hybrid** format. Commissioners can choose to participate either via ZOOM or in (the newly remodeled) Stone Hall of National Presbyterian Church.

The evening before our first hybrid meeting, I also invite you to our inaugural **Action Item Dialogue** on **Monday evening, May 23 at 7:30 PM**. This is an opportunity to dig into a major action item that will be voted upon the following day at our business meeting. Join members of the Committee on Ministry (COM) and our General Presbyter to get more background information, ask clarifying questions, and raise concerns on the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program that will be voted upon Tuesday. In the future we look forward to offering Action Item Dialogues the evening before each Presbytery meeting: to provide the opportunity for less formal conversation and discussion in advance of issues that the body will be voting upon. This is in lieu of the Open Space Time where such dialogue has happened more recently.

**We begin our meeting at 5 PM with worship**, which will also be a hybrid service. Worship will be led by the good people of Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, with pastor Dr. Perzavia Praylow preaching. NCP celebrates the 180 years of faithful ministry that Fifteenth Street has fostered as a church in NCP, and we look forward to their worship leadership.

We will continue to offer to God the worship of our work and service during the business meeting portion of our gathering. On the agenda at the time I write this letter is:

- the election of the new Moderator and Vice-Moderator
- a motion to approve the search committee for a new stated clerk,
- a motion to approve the CRE Program from the COM (mentioned above)
- a motion for an exception to timeline from the Committee for Preparation on Ministry (CPM), and
- the commissioning of Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly.

As always, following our time together, please take just a few minutes to offer your reflection on the meeting. Although we can't address every issue raised by each presbyter, I assure you that the staff and leadership of NCP take those comments and suggestions to heart as we look ahead and plan future meetings.

As we continue to change and adapt how we come together to do our work, I give thanks that by the power of the Holy Spirit working within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we could ask or ever imagine. To God be the Glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever (*from Ephesians 3:20-21*).

Diane Walton Hendricks,

Moderator of NCP, Moderator



**National Capital**  
PRESBYTERY  
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

## Stated Meeting of the National Capital Presbytery

May 24th, 2022

### National Presbyterian Church-Hybrid

5:00PM Call to order with prayer	Rev. Diane Hendricks, Moderator
5:05PM Worship	Led by Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church
5:45PM Omnibus Motion (p.5)	Rev. John Molina-Moore, Acting Stated Clerk
5:50 PM Transitions	Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
6:00 PM Election of NCP Moderator and Vice Moderator (p.4, 6)	Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, Chair of Nominating Committee
6:10 PM Election of the search committee for the Stated Clerk (p.6)	Rev. David McClung, Chair of Leadership Council
6:20 PM Approve the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program (p.6,7)	Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, Chair of Committee on Ministry
6:35 PM Recommendation from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (p.6)	Rev. Megan Klose, Chair of CPM
6:45PM Commissioning of 2020 GA Commissioners	Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter
6:55 PM Charge and Benediction	Rev. Dr. Perzavia Praylow, Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church

#### **Serving Tonight:**

Rev. Diane Hendricks, Moderator

Elder Shani McIlwain, Vice Moderator

Rev. Dr. Perzavia Praylow, Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church

The Congregation of Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church

Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter and Acting Stated Clerk

Rev. Megan Klose, Chair of Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Elder Dave McClung, Chair of Leadership Council

Rev. Rachel Vaagenes, Chair of Nominating Committee

Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, Chair of Committee on Ministry

## Biographies of Nominees

### 2022-2023 Moderator— Elder Shani McIlwain, Faith Presbyterian Church



Shani is a bestselling author, leadership coach, sought after speaker, preacher, retreat leader and ruling elder in the PCUSA. She serves NCP on various ministries such as CPM, Young Adult Volunteer, and BPU. She works for the Presbyterian Outlook as the digital audience manager and serves on the NEXT Church Strategy Team.

### 2022-2023 Vice Moderator- Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon, United Parish of Bowie



Chris currently serves at the United Parish of Bowie, joining them in ministry in 2014. Prior to this, he was pastor for six years at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL. Additionally, he is the current chair of NCP's New Things team and is a member of CDC. Within his local community, he is a founding board member and treasurer of the Bowie Interfaith Coalition.

Chris received his bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Tennessee and his M.Div from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. By the time you read this, he will have graduated with his Doctorate in Ministry (also from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His doctoral project was entitled, "Community in a Time of Covid."

He enjoys spending time with his family. His wife, Heather, works as the Director of Business Affairs for National Capital Presbytery. His daughter, Hannah is too busy with third grade to find Presbytery activities very interesting. His two golden retrievers are Episcopalian, but he is working on them! In his spare time, Chris likes wood working, home improvement, cooking, reading, board games, and watching movies. He especially enjoys watching his beloved Tennessee Titans, proving that hope springs eternal!

## OMNIBUS MOTION FOR THE MAY 24, 2022 PRESBYTERY MEETING

### From the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk moves the approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2022 NCP meeting.
- The Stated Clerk reports that they received the report from the following commission and dismisses with thanks: The commission to install Rev. Mark Harper as Pastor at Takoma Park PC on May 1, 2022

### From the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee moves the following people for nomination:

#### **ACCP**

% 2025 Elder Noel de Santos (Rock Presbyterian Church of Maryland)

#### **CDC**

% 2025 Rev. Jeri Fields (reup)

% 2025 Rev. John Lee (reup)

% 2025 Elder Norman Cobb (reup) (First United Church, Dale City)

#### **COM**

% 2025 Rev. Chuck Booker

% 2025 Rev. Eric “Rick” Snyder (reup)

% 2025 Elder Michael Volpe (reup) (Falls Church Pres)

#### **MCC**

% 2025 Rev. Rachel Vaagenes

#### **PJC**

% 2025 Elder Eric “Rick” Snyder (Christian Community Church, Bowie, MD)

#### **Recommendations for service on Nominating Committee:**

% 2024 Rev. Mary Rogers

% 2025 Rev. Katie Murchison Ross

% 2025 Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt

#### **Chair Recommendations:**

CDC                      Rev. Jeri Fields as Chair of CDC

PJC                      Rev. Charles “Van” Van Gorder

Nom Com                      Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt as Chair of Nominating

Personnel                      Elder Barbara Mitchell (National)

CPM                      Rev. Megan Klose

Representation                      Elder Mitchell Fulton (Pilgrims)

## ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2022 PRESBYTERY MEETING

### From the Nominating Committee:

The committee nominates **Elder Shani McIlwain** (Faith) to be Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2022-2023.

The committee nominates **Rev. Dr. Chris Deacon** to be Vice-Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery for 2022-2023.

### From the Leadership Council:

**Motion:** The Leadership Council moves election of the following slate of ruling and teaching elders to comprise a Stated Clerk Search Committee: Rev. Brian Clark, Riverside; Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, Fairlington; Elder Sally Shiomichi, Oaklands; Elder Norman Cobb, Dale City; Rev. Sterling Morse, Church of The Redeemer, Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman, Brambleton; Rev. John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter.

### From Committee on Ministry (COM):

**Motion:** The COM Coordinating Commission moves the National Capital Presbytery to approve The Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

### From the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

**Motion:** To approve, by three-fourths vote, the recommendation from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry to waive the time limitations of G-20602 that requires a 2-year minimum process for the inquiry and candidacy phases of readiness to receive a call for Candidate Chris McAuliffe.

**Background:** Chris McAuliffe received a Master of Divinity from Wake Forest School of Divinity in 2019. Following graduation, he began exploring the process for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA. He joined Potomac Presbyterian Church as the Director of Youth Ministry and Christian Formation. Chris was encouraged by his minister and session to apply to become an inquirer under the care of CPM. He wrote in his final assessment paper, "My passion is for youth ministry and my hope is to continue to serve the community of Potomac Presbyterian Church after ordination. I see ordination as an answer to the call that God placed on my life." He enrolled as an inquirer in March 2021 and was moved to candidacy in October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In September 2021 he passed the Bible Content Exam and in January 27, 2022 he passed his Theology, Worship & Sacraments and Polity exams. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 he passed his Bible Exegesis exam. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 CPM approved him as ready for final assessment to be certified as ready to receive a call on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 pending approval of a waiver of G-20602 by NCP at its May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.



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# **COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER PROGRAM**

**Approved by COM**

**04/19/2022**

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER PROGRAM****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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## **COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER PROGRAM**

### **What is a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)?**

*A CRE is an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery.*

### **Who commissions the ruling elder?**

*When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of a ruling elder to serve a congregation, it shall commission the ruling elder to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery,*

### **What is the ruling elder commissioned to do?**

*A commissioned ruling elder is responsible to watch over the people and provide for their worship and nurture. Permission for specific activities will be included in the approval of the Committee on Ministry.*

### **Why commission Ruling Elders?**

*We believe that God's Spirit provides opportunities for new forms of ministry to build up Christ's Church. Baptized Christians who are ordained as Ruling Elders may bring particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people.*

### **What is the CRE application process?**

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Must be a Ruling Elder in the PC(USA);
- Must be endorsed by home church;
- Must submit application for approval by the Committee on Ministry;
- Must complete a psychological evaluation administered by LeaderWise.

### **Who certifies a CRE candidate as prepared to be and suitable for the role of CRE?**

*The Committee on Ministry (COM) interviews, reviews application, determines what training is required, and certifies to the presbytery that a candidate is ready to serve as a CRE.*

### **What training is required?**

*A ruling elder who seeks to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery. (G-2.1001-2.1004)*

### **How is a CRE compensated?**

*A Commissioned Ruling Elder shall receive compensation in accordance with the presbytery's Compensation and Personnel Policy for Pastors. The policy may be found on NCP's website under the Documents tab - Committee on Ministry (COM) Documents.*

## TRAINING

*The Committee on Ministry requires the following areas of training for CRE candidates. The training for each CRE candidate shall be overseen and administered by COM.*

- Biblical Studies
- Reformed Theology and Sacraments
- Presbyterian Polity
- Preaching
- Leading Worship (including administering sacraments when authorized)
- Pastoral Care
- Field Internship
- Healthy Boundary Training

### **What is the process for examination and eligibility for ministry?**

#### EXAMINATION and COMMISSIONING

- *The Committee on Ministry is charged with conducting a background check and the examination of those it certifies as prepared to be and suitable for the role of Commissioned Ruling Elder.*
- *The Committee on Ministry will present candidates to National Capital Presbytery with a written statement from the candidates concerning their sense of call.*
- *The Committee on Ministry will recommend that the presbytery approve the candidate as eligible to be commissioned to a particular ministry.*
- *Following presbytery approval, the commissioning may take place either within the context of a worship service at a time other than the presbytery meeting or within the context of a presbytery meeting, the choice being made by those about to be commissioned. The commission may be renewed at expiration or terminated at any time at the discretion of the COM.*
- *Within the ministry to which the CRE has been commissioned, the CRE may be authorized by COM to perform one or more of the following services:*
  - Prepare and lead worship
    - ☐ Provide administrative leadership in this ministry
    - ☐ Administer the Lord's Supper only in this ministry
    - ☐ Administer the Sacrament of Baptism only in this ministry
    - ☐ Moderate the session and congregational meetings of the congregation
    - ☐ Have a voice in meetings of presbytery
    - ☐ Have a vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as a ruling elder)

### **Who supervises the CRE?**

*The CRE shall work under the supervision of the Committee on Ministry. A minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor.*

**SECURING COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER PASTOR LEADERSHIP FOR  
CONGREGATIONS/IMMIGRANT WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES  
National Capital Presbytery – Committee on Ministry**

Step	Responsible Party
<b>1.0</b> The Ruling Elder (RE) meets with COM Exam Team to discuss application process and meets with his/her home congregation's session to discuss applying to Commissioned Ruling Elder Program. The session endorses the Ruling Elder's application process.	RE COM Exam Team Session of REs Home Congregation
<b>2.0</b> The RE completes and submits application to COM Exam Team and completes psychological examination	RE Cost shared by RE/Home Church Session/ Presbytery
<b>3.0</b> The COM Exam Team reviews/approves application	CTC, CRE Exam Team, NCP staff
<b>4.0</b> The CCRE completes course work with approved seminary and approved Directed Study for polity and Reformed Theology, and completes Healthy Boundaries Training	CCRE
<b>5.0</b> The CCRE is assigned an internship.	COM/CTC/NCP Staff, Internship Site
<b>6.0</b> The COM Exam Team examines CCRE and recommends ERE status	COM

**CTC** = Congregational Transitions Commission **COM** = Committee on Ministry **RE**=Ruling Elder **CRE**=Commissioned Ruling Elder  
**CCRE**= Candidate Commissioned Ruling Elder **ERE**=Eligible Ruling Elder

**SECURING COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER PASTOR LEADERSHIP FOR  
CONGREGATIONS/IMMIGRANT WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES  
National Capital Presbytery – Committee on Ministry**

<b>7.0 After sustaining exam, COM sends an introductory letter to the ERE, The letter requests written acknowledgement of the receipt of and willingness to comply with the following documents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this procedure</li> <li>• <i>NCP Code of Ethics</i></li> <li>• <i>NCP Sexual Misconduct Policy and Administrative Leave Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Healthy Boundaries Certificate</i></li> </ul>	COM/ERE
<b>8.0</b> COM recommends commissioning to a particular ministry/ approves contract	COM/CTC
<b>9.0</b> Approval of Commissioning of RE	Presbytery
<b>10.0</b> Assignment of minister mentor for CRE	Mentor/COM

**Authority:**

**Book of Order:** G-2.1001, G-2.1002, G-2.1003, G-4.0301, W-4.0404

**NCP Policies:** Code of Ethics for Clergy and Other Church Professionals; Sexual Misconduct Policy; Administrative Leave Policy; Examination Policy; Healthy Boundaries

**CTC** = Congregational Transitions Commission **COM** = Committee on Ministry **RE**=Ruling Elder **CRE**=Commissioned Ruling Elder  
**CCRE**= Candidate Commissioned Ruling Elder **ERE**=Eligible Ruling Elder

## APPLICATION FORM FOR CRE PROGRAM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Church) (City/State)

**Describe Your Activities in the Life and Mission of the Church:**

(List churches to which you have belonged; dates of active membership; church activities you participated in; positions of responsibility you have held, etc. *Use an additional sheet of paper, if necessary.*)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe Your Service and Experience as an Ordained Elder:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Background:**

School & Location Year Graduated: Diploma/Degree:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**References:**

List the name, address, telephone, and occupation of three people (no relatives) who have known you for at least five years. One of these references should be a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I hereby authorize those inquiring into my suitability to contact my references.  
 (Initial)

**Statement:**

**“Why I would like to be involved in the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program.”**

In your statement, please describe which phases of service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder you believe will be most difficult for you and which will be easiest for you.

Also, please describe your most meaningful religious experience and why it was most meaningful to you.

### Session Endorsement of CRE Applicant

**Applicant** should take this completed form to the moderator of your session. The minister and session will talk with you about your interest in the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program. The clerk of session will then forward your application form to the Committee on Ministry administrator.

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE SESSION

As the Session considers recommending a person to be enrolled in the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program, the following are among the criteria that should be considered:

- ☐ Is the person a committed Christian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Is the person an active and effective member of the Congregation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Does the person relate helpfully and positively to others? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Is the person loyal to and enthusiastic about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Does the person have strong leadership qualities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Does the person have good communication skills? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Also, in considering your recommendation, are the Session and the Congregation willing to affirm and support this person in ministry? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATION

The Session of \_\_\_\_\_ (Church)

met with \_\_\_\_\_ who is a Ruling Elder in this congregation and after due deliberation recommends this person for the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk of Session)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Internship Report for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)

CRE Candidate's Name:

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Minister's Name:

---

Church Address:

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Please answer the following questions. Additional comments may be written on the back.

How would you characterize this candidate's participation in the Internship?

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What are the major strengths of this Commissioned Ruling Elder's ministry?

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In what areas of ministry would you encourage this Commissioned Ruling Elder to make improvements?

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What areas of continuing education would you recommend for this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

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Minister's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to Dina Bickel, [dbickel@thepresbytery.org](mailto:dbickel@thepresbytery.org), Administrative Coordinator*

### **Mentor for Commissioned Ruling Elder(s)**

**The Committee on Ministry** will assign a mentor to support and supervise the Commissioned Ruling Elder's ministry. The mentor and the CRE will determine a schedule for meeting. The mentor will submit an annual report (form on next page) to the Committee on Ministry.

## Mentor's Annual Report for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)

CRE's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioned to \_\_\_\_\_ (Church) until \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's Name and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly answer the following questions. Additional comments may be written on the back.

How would you characterize your relationship with this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

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Are you generally satisfied with the ministry of this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

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What are the major strengths of this Commissioned Ruling Elder's ministry?

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In what areas of ministry would you encourage this Commissioned Ruling Elder to make improvements?

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What areas of continuing education would you recommend for this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

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Mentor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to [dbickel@thepresbytery.org](mailto:dbickel@thepresbytery.org), Administrative Coordinator*

## EXAMINATION

(Four Parts)

- 1) Complete a one-page **Statement of Faith** which outlines your views on the Trinity, salvation, the church, and the sacraments.
- 2) Complete a one-page **Biographical Sketch** which traces your faith journey and call to and/or service in ministry.
- 3) Complete a one-page (total) paper with answers to the **Ordination Questions** asked of all presbyters at ordination, installation, and/or commissioning as listed below:

### Ordination Questions

*Please **select 2 of the 9** following questions and write a half-page response to each question (total - one page). Use the question-bullets as a guide to your answer. It is not necessary to answer each bullet point.*

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
  - What does it mean to you to trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior?
  - What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ is Lord of all? Head of the Church?
  - What does it mean to you to say that God is one yet made up of three persons?
  - What is the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
  - What role does the Holy Spirit play in our interpretation of the Scriptures?
  - In what way are the Scriptures the "unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ"?
  - How are the Scriptures "God's Word to you"?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
  - List some of what you understand to be the "essential tenets" of the Reformed faith.
  - Do you find any of them in conflict with what you think that "Scripture leads us to believe and do"?
4. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
  - What does it mean to you to be obedient to Jesus Christ?
  - What does it mean to you to be under the authority of Scripture?
  - What does it mean to you to be guided by our confessions?

5. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline?
  - What does it mean to you "to be guided by our church's polity"?
  - What does it mean to you "to abide by our church's discipline"?
  - How does the church "discern the will of Christ"?
6. Will you in our own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
  - What is the hardest part of keeping this vow for you?
7. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? What is your role as an elder to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? Is that role different from that of any other member of the church?
  - What do you do when these three (peace, unity, and purity) are in tension?
8. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
  - What does it mean to you to "serve the people"?
9. Will you be a faithful ruling elder in this commission, serving the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?
  - How do you see your role as commissioned ruling elder in this particular church?
  - If appropriate, how will you balance your service to the larger church to that of the congregation?
  - How do you balance showing "the love and justice of Jesus Christ"? (Adapted from CRE manual from Coastal Carolina Presbytery)

*(Adapted from CRE Manual from Coastal Carolina Presbytery)*

- 4) Complete the **Five Examination Interview Essays**. Please limit each essay to a half of page.
  1. Please reflect theologically on the meaning and practice of the Fourth Ordination Question (W-4.0404(d) "Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our Confessions?")
  2. Why are you in the Reformed tradition and a Presbyterian in the PC(USA)?
  3. What aspects of our Presbyterian polity do you consider most valuable? What aspects do you consider most in need of further development?
  4. What do you understand to be your responsibility in furthering "the peace, unity and purity of the church" (W-4.0404g)?
  5. Please reflect theologically on Book of Order Section G-2.0104 a and b (Gifts and Qualifications). In your response (a) describe how you demonstrate in your own life the gifts and qualifications for ordered ministry in the PC(USA) as described in this section and (b) how you would, or do, guide a session and/or nominating committee in discerning these gifts and qualifications in persons being nominated for Deacon and Ruling Elder in a church.

## Agreement for Commissioned Ruling Elder Relationship for Qualified Ruling Elders of the PC(USA)

The following agreement is between \_\_\_\_\_ and the Session of \_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church of National Capital Presbytery for the purpose of providing pastoral services for a period beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending on \_\_\_\_\_. (*Cannot be for more than three years at a time.*)

### Accountability

A Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) will continue to be accountable to his/her home session and to National Capital Presbytery through the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery and will be accountable to the Session of this congregation as concerns his/her ministry within this congregation.

### Expectations of the Pastor (*please ☐ check all that apply*)

- ☐ Will lead worship and preach on a regular basis but with the option to have guest ministers on occasion and the session will be responsible for obtaining any supply pastor when this occurs.
- ☐ Will visit sick, shut-ins, new members, and the congregation as is appropriate and as is able with regular work schedule.
- ☐ Will provide leadership and guidance to committees as requested and time permitting.
- ☐ Will enhance spiritual life of the church through pastoral leadership.
- ☐ Will conduct funerals and weddings when called upon.
- ☐ Will administer the sacraments (with COM approval)
- ☐ Will moderate Session and Congregational meetings (with COM approval)
- ☐ Other: (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

This agreement is for an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ hours per week including the time to prepare sermons.

### Expectations of the Session:

1. Will work collegially with the CRE in the shared ministry of the congregation (*Book of Order, G-2.0301*).
2. Will review the CRE work and compensation annually (*Book of Order, G-2.0804*).

### Termination or Extension Provisions/Considerations

1. This agreement may be terminated at any time by the Session or Pastor with 30 days written notice or by action of the Commission on Ministry.
2. This agreement may be extended at the end the agreement for a period of one to three years as agreed upon by both parties. These extensions *must* be approved by the Commission on Ministry.

CRE Agreement

**Financial Terms**

*A Commissioned Ruling Elder shall receive compensation in accordance with the presbytery's Compensation and Personnel Policy for Pastors. The policy may be found on NCP's website under the Documents tab - Committee on Ministry (COM) Documents.*

We will provide the following remuneration

Salary \_\_\_\_\_

Other Benefits/Insurance/SECA \_\_\_\_\_

Travel (not to exceed) \_\_\_\_\_ (paid on reimbursement basis)

Vouchered Professional Expenses \_\_\_\_\_ (paid on reimbursement basis)

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Sick Leave (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Vacation \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be proportional to the number of Sundays preached/scheduled per month)

Continuing Education Time \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be proportional to the number of Sundays preached/scheduled per month)

**Background Check/Boundary Training**

National Capital Presbytery requires the successful completion of the Healthy Boundaries Training course and a background check run by them for all persons serving in a pastoral relationship with one or more of our congregations.

**Certification of This Agreement**

The compensation and position description shown here was reviewed and approved by the session on \_\_\_\_\_. (date)

Clerk of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed and am agreeable to the terms of this agreement.

Commissioned Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The COM approves this agreement and authorizes \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No To Administer the Sacraments

☐ Yes ☐ No To Moderate the Session

beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date) until \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Commission on Ministry \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Chair of appropriate COM

CRE Agreement