

Commissioned Lay Pastor Training



Discerning Christ's Call

Presbyterian Church (USA)
www.glpby.org

“We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind...”

Anticipated annual costs

The anticipated annual cost of the training program is shared between the student, the student's home church, and the student's presbytery. The estimated cost is:

Student: \$2180 (includes 1/2 annual tuition, online courses, and books)

Home Church: \$1020 (1/2 annual tuition)

Presbytery partnership: \$3000 (annual cost for Dean's stipend)

Additional one time expenses (the first year)

Student: \$175 (application fee and 1/3 of psychological assessment fee).

Home Church: \$150 per student (1/3 psychological assessment fee).

Presbytery: \$150 per student (1/3 psychological assessment fee).

Application requirements

- Be an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Have the recommendation of the elder's church Session
- Have a high school diploma or GED, college degree preferred
- Complete the application and pay the \$25 application fee.
- Complete psychological assessment.

Admission into the training program

Admission to the training program is based on the approval by the CLP Oversight Team of each elder's application documents and the results of the psychological assessment.

Admission to the program is also based on the elder's agreement to participate in an ongoing process of vocational discernment directed by the CLP Oversight Team.

More information

For more information, or to request an application, please contact Stephanie Knopf, Dean of the CLP Training Program, at 636-394-1929 or 314-420-9477, or sbknopf@yahoo.com. An inquiry meeting will be held in March 6, 2010 for people interested in the training program. The meeting date will be posted on the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy calendar at www.glpby.org, and will be advertised at Presbytery meetings.



Discerning Christ's Call To Serve

What is a Commissioned Lay Pastor? (CLP)?



As defined by the Book of Order, a “commissioned lay pastor is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service. The elder shall be instructed in Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching. (Book of Order G-14.0560)

CLP's are commissioned by Presbytery in response to the ever-changing missional needs of our churches. They are elders who sense God may be calling them to new forms of service, and who are trained and authorized by the Presbytery, working in partnership with ministers of the Word.

“The Call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering, and a responsibility.” – From **The Service of Commissioning.**

What functions may a CLP be authorized to perform?

A presbytery may authorize a commissioned lay pastor to perform any or all of the following functions:

- *Administer the Lord's Supper.*
- *Administer the Sacrament of Baptism.*
- *Moderate the session of the congregation under the supervision of and when invited by the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery, or when appointed by presbytery as moderator.*
- *Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other responsible committee, and when allowed by the state.*
- *Have a voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity). (Book of Order, G-14.0562)*

Purpose statement

The purpose of Giddings-Lovejoy's CLP training is to equip elders theologically, academically and practically to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service.

Ordinarily, commissioned lay pastors would be commissioned to serve congregations other than the church where they are members. Even if elders complete the program and do not seek a commission, they may use their gifts, new training, and leadership skills in their home church and through participation in the mission of the Presbytery.

Components of the CLP training program

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy offers a three year CLP training program consisting of:

- Six weekend training sessions annually.
- Six on line courses through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.
- Additional meeting as scheduled by the CLP Oversight Team.
- Each student will be assigned a mentor.
- Two one-year placements of Field Education. This practical education will be performed at churches other than a student's home church.
- The CLP class size will be between 10-12 students.