

# CRE Program Application

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## Personal Information

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

## Academic Background

List the academic institutions you have attended, beginning with high school and complete the information requested:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Dates Attended</u>	<u>Program or Major</u>	<u>Diploma or Degree</u>
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Describe any previous experience in lay preaching or pastoral ministry:

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## Occupational History

List the three most recent full-time or part-time positions in which you have been employed and also provide the following information: job title, dates of employment, aspect most enjoyed, aspect most disliked.

1. Current Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Next most recent: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Second most recent: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Church History**

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

Date joined: \_\_\_\_\_ Date ordained an Elder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date ordained a Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Profession of Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable list other churches where you have been a member.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List previous or current areas of involvement in your local church as a participant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List previous or current areas of involvement in your local church as a leader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List previous or current areas of involvement in Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List voluntary services, civic or social organizations of which you are or have been a member, and indicate your extent of participation and your role.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any factors that may place limits on your ability to receive training or to serve as a Ruling Elder Commissioned for Pastoral Service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Tell us about yourself:

Write a response to each of the following. These responses should be attached to this application.

1. In one or two paragraphs, describe yourself as a person.
2. What does it mean to you to be or become a Presbyterian? (approximately 100-200 words)
3. Describe briefly what it means to you to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder? What has motivated you to consider this program? What gifts do you bring to the ministry? (approximately 200-400 words)
4. Write a brief statement of your personal faith (approximately 300-500 words). Your statement should describe (at minimum) what you believe about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and your relationship to them.
5. Write a brief statement of your personal understanding of the sacraments. (approximately 200-400 words)
6. Describe your current spiritual journey, spiritual practices, prayer life, and disciplines. (approximately 300-500 words)
7. Comment on your interests, hobbies and stress-relieving activities.

## Allow others to tell us about you:

With this application are three Reference Forms that need to be filled out by specific categories of people. You will need to have one person from each of these categories complete the form you give them and return them directly to the Maumee Valley Presbytery offices. The instructions are on the Reference Form for them to follow.

1. Teaching Elder or CRE within MVP
2. Someone who has worked with you i.e. employer, committee leader, session member, or social organization leader, etc.
3. A close associate other than family such as friend, church member, or co-worker

## Personal Commitment:

In signing this application I understand and agree to the following:

1. The CRE Program is an opportunity to be trained for pastoral ministry for churches with MVP and as such requires academic growth, spiritual development, personal discipline, and ministry proficiency. It is essential that I am fully committed to this process.
2. I am accountable to the CRE Committee for my actions and inappropriate attitudes or behavior may disqualify me from the program.
3. That I am responsible to adhere to the Standards of Ethical Conduct expected of all ministers. (see attached)
4. That the terms and conditions of my commissioning upon completion of the program are at the prerogative of the CRE Committee and Committee on Ministry and that I will engage in no ministry activity within MVP without the prior approval of these Committees.
5. That upon completion of any ministry assignment, I will sever my connection to the church to which I was commissioned (even if it is the church of which they are members).
6. That I am expected to complete the program within the time allotted and that beyond this period of time, the parts accomplished will have to be reassessed by the CRE Committee as to their value in any future engagement in CRE training.
7. That any pastoral ministry that I might engage in as a result of completing this program is a stewardship of God's people requiring faithfulness to God and a trust extended by MVP requiring accountability to its leadership.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this application, with attachments and a \$25 application fee (payable to the Presbytery of Maumee Valley) to the CRE Program, Maumee Valley Presbytery, 700 East Melrose, Findlay, Ohio 45839-0853**

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**Reference Request  
for the  
Commissioned Ruling Elder Program  
of  
Maumee Valley Presbytery**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

You have been asked to give us some background information on the above applicant who has applied for entrance in the Commissioned Ruling Elder training program. This program is an intensive 30 month season of training after which the applicant may serve in pastoral ministry within our family of churches. We want to know more about the applicant; particularly in the areas of character, leadership, influence on others, and spirituality. By taking the time to share with us what you know in these matters, you greatly assist us in helping the applicant succeed in the program. Please be honest and know that your responses are held in strictest confidence.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of time you've known applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about the applicant's character: (strengths, weaknesses, unique traits, etc.)

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Please tell us about the applicant's leadership skills: (strengths, weaknesses, examples, etc.)

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Please tell us about the applicant's influence on others: (strengths, weaknesses, examples, etc.)

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Please tell us about the applicant's spirituality: (examples or impressions)

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What else can you tell us about the applicant in regards to his or her interaction with people, personal discipline, sense of responsibility, or other characteristics as they might pertain to serving in ministry to the church?

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Please send your responses directly to:  
**Maumee Valley Presbytery**  
**c/o CRE Committee**  
**700 East Melrose**  
**Findlay, Ohio 45839-0853**

# Standards of Ethical Conduct for Ordained Officers including CREs

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**As an ordained officer in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and guided by our Confessions, I affirm the vows made at my ordination, confirm that Jesus Christ is the pattern for my life and ministry and, relying on God's grace, commit myself to the following standards of ethical conduct.**

## I

**I will conduct my life in a manner that is faithful to the gospel and consistent with my public ministry. Therefore I will:**

1. Practice the disciplines of study, prayer, reflection, worship, stewardship, and service;
2. Be honest and truthful in my relationships with others;
3. Be faithful, keeping the covenants I make and honoring marriage vows;
4. Treat all persons with equal respect and concern as beloved children of God;
5. Maintain a healthy balance among the responsibilities of my office of ministry, my commitments to family and other primary relationships, and my need for spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual renewal;
6. Refrain from abusive, addictive, or exploitative behavior and seek help to overcome such behavior if it occurs;
7. Refrain from gossip and abusive speech; and
8. Maintain an attitude of repentance, humility, and forgiveness, responsive to God's reconciling will.

## II

**I will conduct my ministry so that nothing need be hidden from a governing body or colleagues in ministry. Therefore I will:**

1. Preach, teach, and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ with courage, speaking the truth in love;
2. Honor the sacred trust of relationships within the covenant community and observe appropriate boundaries;
3. Be judicious in the exercise of the power and privileges of my office and positions of responsibility I hold;
4. Avoid conflicts of interest that might compromise the effectiveness of my ministry;
5. Refrain from exploiting relationships within the community of faith for personal gain or gratification, including sexual harassment and misconduct as defined by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) policy;
6. Respect the privacy of individuals and not divulge information obtained in confidence without express permission, unless an individual is a danger to self or others;
7. Recognize the limits of my own gifts and training, and refer persons and tasks to others as appropriate;
8. Claim only those qualifications actually attained, give appropriate credit for all sources used in sermons, papers, music, and presentations, and observe copyrights;
9. Refrain from incurring indebtedness that might compromise my ministry;
10. Be a faithful steward of and fully account for funds and property entrusted to me;
11. Observe limits set by the appropriate governing body for honoraria, personal business endeavors, and gifts or loans from persons other than family;
12. Accept the discipline of the church and the appropriate guidance of those to whom I am accountable for my ministry;
13. Participate in continuing education and seek the counsel of mentors and professional advisors;
14. Deal honorably with the record of my predecessor and upon leaving a ministry or office speak and act in ways that support the ministry of my successor;
15. Participate in the life of a ministry setting I left or from which I have retired only as directed by presbytery;

16. Provide pastoral services for a congregation I previously served only as directed by the presbytery and provide pastoral services to members of other congregations only with the consent of their pastors; and
17. Consult with the committee on ministry in the presbytery of my residence regarding my involvement in any ministry setting during my retirement.

### **III**

**I will participate as a partner with others in the ministry and mission of the Church universal.**

**Therefore I will:**

1. Participate in the mission and governance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and work for the unity of the holy catholic church;
2. Show respect and provide encouragement for colleagues in ministry;
3. Recruit church members responsibly, respect existing congregational relationships, and refrain from exploiting persons in vulnerable situations; and
4. Cooperate with those working in the world for justice, compassion, and peace, including partners in ministry of other faith traditions.
5. These standards apply only to pastors; they also apply to commissioned lay pastors when they are performing pastoral functions.