

PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA
801 Loudoun Avenue
Portsmouth, Virginia 23707-3216
info@pcusa-peva.org
Application for Commissioned Lay Pastor Training

1) Personal Information

Name: _____

Mailing (Street) Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____ Cell: _____

Name and Address of PC(USA) Church where you are a member: _____

How long have you been a member of your PC(USA) congregation? _____

How long have you served as an elder? _____

2) Please provide a ½ to 1 page response to each of the following:

1. Please attach a brief statement of your personal faith (the sort of statement which frequently is required of elders or of students in a confirmation class). Describe what you believe about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and your relationship to them. You may also wish to include a summary of your understanding of the role of scripture, of the church, of the sacraments, and of the Reformed tradition.
2. Please describe your experience as a leader both in the church (congregation, session, presbytery, etc.) and, where appropriate, in the community, including your current and prior vocations.
3. Please describe your experience in the area of communication (both within the church – e.g. preaching, teaching, working with groups – and outside the church).
4. What leads you to believe that God is calling you to prepare yourself to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor? What gifts and skills do you bring to this program? In what areas of your Christian life – both personally and professionally – would you like to grow?
5. Describe how you will balance the demands of your personal commitment to your Lay Pastorate with your secular profession.

3) **Pastor/Session Endorsement**

Please take the materials above and submit them to your pastor or to the moderator of the Session of your church. The pastor and the Session will review your application with you before forwarding their endorsing letter to the Commissioned Lay Pastor subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry. No application may be considered without an endorsement from the Pastor and Session.

4) **Computer Proficiency, UDTSLearning.net, and the CLP Process**

PEVA's CLP program involves a significant amount of online education, which is supplemented by regular face-to-face meetings with both local mentors (assigned through the Associate Presbyterian) and other CLP candidates who are taking the same courses that you will be taking. The online component of PEVA's program is through UDTSLearning.net (a program for on-line learning through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary). After you have been approved to be a candidate in PEVA's CLP program, you will be expected to take the eight core courses required of Presbyterian CLPs (i.e., Introduction to Old Testament, Introduction to New Testament, Pastoral Care, Presbyterian Polity, Reformed Theology, Introduction to Preaching, Foundations of Christian Education, Reformed Worship and Sacraments). While you take these courses, you will be in conference with local students and a local mentor. After you have successfully completed all of these courses, you will meet with the CLP Committee for a final exit interview and examination.

Before you submit this application, please look at the web page (and corresponding pages) at <http://www.udtslearning.net/>

5) **Annual Review**

There will be an annual review with the CLP candidate and the assigned mentor. The review will be conducted by members of the CLP subcommittee and will cover concerns, issues and progress.

6) **Statement of Consent**

I am applying for admission to the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. If accepted, I commit myself to participating fully in the scheduled activities and assignments to the best of my ability. I understand that successful completion of the CLP training is necessary before one can be a Certified Lay Pastor. I also recognize that completion of the program does not guarantee certification or a position as a Certified Lay Pastor. Certification depends on a successful exit interview and the endorsement of the Committee on Ministry.

I understand that the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia and/or any local congregation to which I may be called can and will conduct a preliminary criminal record background check or any other appropriate screening it deems necessary.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Upon completion mail the form to:

**Committee on Ministry
Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
801 Loudoun Avenue
Portsmouth, VA 23707-3216**