



## Presbytery of Missouri River Valley

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June 1, 2023

Dear friends,

Be excited! We are having great success in welcoming new faces to the CP program (formerly Commissioned Ruling Elder now Commissioned Pastor) thanks to your efforts to share this opportunity with members in your congregation. Today, I am sending this follow-up letter to encourage you to keep seeking new individuals to join this program. Those who have joined this program so far are feeling God's gentle push, but many only take the steps to join this program after getting encouragement from their pastors and congregations.

So, again, this year, I am sending a letter on behalf of the CPM (Commission for Preparation on Ministry) to share this information with this special group of lay people. Last year, thanks to your efforts, we had five inquiries regarding this program which has resulted in three people joining the Academy to become CPs. They are trained to lead churches in a variety of tasks that might include leading worship, moderating session, acting as standing supply pastor and other roles within the church as determined by COM.

I am attaching this year's flyer from the Synod School which, as you will note, has classes taught by fine seminary professors. Because we are a supporting Presbytery, the cost of the course work is \$1,375 for all 11 courses. I hope that you will prayerfully think about which people in your ministry need an affirmation of their talents and a recognition of their calling. This program will help us keep our smaller churches afloat, give more people expertise in Reformed theology and Presbyterian polity and most importantly, it will help us share in God's Redemptive mission.

Grace and peace,

Christine

Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey  
Associate Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Cross  
Secretary, Commission of Preparation for Ministry