



January 26, 2022

Dear friends,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley. I would like to introduce you to our Commissioned Pastor (CP) designation within the PCUSA. This is a way for Ruling Elders to serve as pastors in an important pastoral role. As the CPM, we help shepherd CP students through a program that prepares interested people with the basic knowledge for part-time or full-time ministry work. This preparation requires courses in Bible, theology, Reformed polity, and Pastoral Care. These courses provide an essential framework for serving in pastoral ministry under the supervision of a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

We are really excited about this program and the potential to train elders to serve as pastors in congregations in our Presbytery. There are a variety of reasons that a church might consider a Commissioned Pastor such as limited funds, a remote location or to provide outreach to an immigrant population. The CPM will provide guidance for CP candidates in any of the programs, but we are particularly excited about the Academy sponsored by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. This is a wonderful program to equip our lay pastors with the essentials of congregational ministry. I am putting a link to the program below. Please know that the CPM of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley does have some funds for assisting interested folks.

You can help us by getting the word out about the CP program. First, please send us any names of individuals in your congregation that you can see in church leadership. Second, let us know what materials you could use to help us get the word out. I think that people often hear a call but do not know where to start. We want to help our brothers and sisters make that first step easy and encourage them to answer the call that God may have on their lives.

Help us get the word out!

Interested parties should first contact Nicole at the Presbytery office. Her information is as follows:

Nicole Geiler
Phone: 402-553-8300
nicole@pmrv.org

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Dempsey".

Rev. Christine Dempsey, Ph.D.
Associate Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Cross
Vice Chair, Commission on Preparation for Ministry

<https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/the-academy/#toggle-id-10-closed>