

Commissioned Pastor (Commissioned Ruling Elder)
Process for commissioning in Muskingum Valley Presbytery
Approved by MVP Calling Commission May 2, 2018

- A. Application submitted to the Calling Commission of Muskingum Valley Presbytery.

- B. Interview with the Calling Commission.

- C. Psychological Evaluation (1/3 paid by home congregation, 1/3 paid by Presbytery, 1/3 paid by applicant)

- D. A mentor will be assigned once the applicant completes the above steps and comes under care of the presbytery.

- E. Courses offered by MVP with a debriefing one month after each presentation:
 - 1. Soul Care - practice
 - 2. Pastoral Care - practice
 - 3. Family Systems/Church Care
 - 4. Assessments
 - 5. Preaching - practice

- F. Core Courses for U. of Dubuque Theological Seminary Commissioned Pastor (CRE) Program:
 - 1. Introduction to Old Testament
 - 2. Introduction to New Testament
 - 3. Pastoral Care

4. Presbyterian Polity
5. Reformed Theology
6. Introduction to Preaching
7. Foundations of Christian Education
8. Reformed Worship and Sacraments

G. Variations in candidates' eligibility to function in congregations

In order to equip the candidates and offer the churches Commissioned Pastors who are prepared to serve, the Calling Commission recommends that candidates work alongside their mentors and wait until commissioning to fully serve. In some cases, the Calling Commission may allow candidates to serve congregations to limited degrees when it is mutually agreed upon by the candidate, the congregation, and the Calling Commission. With consideration, candidates may be available for supply preaching after their application and interview. With consideration, candidates may perform funerals and visitation after Pastoral Care, and Reformed Worship and Sacraments courses are completed. With consideration, candidates may perform baptisms and communion after Presbyterian Polity and Reformed Theology are completed. Candidates must be commissioned to the congregation before they may moderate session.

H. Costs

1. Application fee (\$35)
 2. Psychological evaluation (\$1237.00 with cost to be shared by the sending congregation, presbytery, and the applicant)
 3. Seminary courses (\$390 per course)
 4. MVP courses (\$300 total)
 5. Books (?)
- I. Time line for the program depends on the course offerings from MVP (usually once a year if there are a minimum number of candidates available); speed of successfully completing the seminary coursework.

