

G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICE

Highlights and underline added for emphasis.

G-2.1001 Functions

When the presbytery, in consultation with **one or more sessions** or other responsible committee, determines that its strategy for mission requires it, the presbytery **may** authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service **as a commissioned pastor also known as commissioned ruling elder** as assigned by the presbytery. A ruling elder so designated **may** be commissioned to serve **one or more validated ministries** of the presbytery. Presbytery, in its commission, **may** authorize the ruling elder to moderate the session of the congregation **or congregations** to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the Sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law. This commission **shall** also specify the term of service, which **shall** not exceed three years but **shall** be renewable. The presbytery **shall** review the commission at least annually.

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. The ruling elder **shall** be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry **may** continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

G-2.1003 Commissioning Service

When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of a ruling elder to serve a congregation providing the services described above, it **shall** commission the ruling elder to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery, employing the questions contained in W-4.04.

G-2.1004 Supervision

The ruling elder commissioned under the terms of G-2.1001 **shall** work under the supervision of the presbytery. The presbytery **may** at any time withdraw the commission for reasons it deems good and sufficient. A minister of the Word and Sacrament **shall** be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.