

Commissioned Pastor Pathway

Steps To Becoming A Commissioned Pastor In Great Lakes City Classis

A Commissioned Pastor is "an elder who is trained, commissioned, and supervised by a classis for a specific ministry within that classis."

1. **Sense of Call**

Contact the Commissioned Pastor Team through the GLCC Clerk ([office@glcclassis.org](mailto:office@glcclassis.org)) to explore a conversation on sense of call to ministry. The Commissioned Pastor Team will facilitate the process with the candidate’s pastor.

1. **Application Process**

* Submit a completed CP Application Form\*. This includes a spiritual autobiography and any college transcripts.
* Submit a completed Consistory Recommendation Form\*
* Ordained as an Elder within your local church within the first year of training program
* Complete a Background Check
  + Done by local church prior to initial classis endorsement. Any fees must be paid by candidate. Background checks must be less than one-year old to be valid.
* Together with the CPT, the candidate and his/her pastoral support we will discern next steps forward in the commissioned pastor process.
* Complete a psychological exam by a psychologist approved by the CPT
  + Must be completed within the first year of the training plan. Candidate sets up the appointment and is responsible to pay the fee directly to the provider.
  + Exam will be reviewed and recommended actions implemented by clerk and CP team leader.

1. **Introductions**

* Candidate meets with the GLCC Commissioned Pastor Team (CPT) for interview and Classis Endorsement\*
  + Introduce yourself, your experience with ministry, your life story and your testimony, sense of call into ministry and the role to which you hope to be commissioned and any training you have had so far.
* Candidate introduced to Classis at Classis Meeting and comes under care. Must be under care a minimum of 6 months prior to commissioning.
  + Briefly introduce yourself, share your sense of call and share the role to which you are being commissioned

1. **Training Plan Development and Competencies**

Per the BCO (1.II.17) Commissioned Pastors must demonstrate competence in Ten Areas\*: (Maturity of Faith, Personal Integrity and Call, Old and New Testament and Biblical Interpretation, Reformed Theology and Tradition, Church History, RCA Government, Standards and Liturgy, Sacraments, Preaching, Capacity to Minister, Pastoral Ethics)

* Candidate Training Plan is developed and approved
  + This plan is a binding document, and must be approved by the GLCC CP Team and the candidate.
  + The Training Plan must be completed within 7 years from the Classis Endorsement.
  + The cost of preparing the Training Plan is $50 paid by the student to the GLCC.
* The student designates a Mentor who must be a classis member and approved by the CPT.
  + Meet with Mentor monthly for reflection, support and growth. Mentors will be trained by the GLCC
* CPT designates a Classis Representative from their team who will check-in quarterly.
* Receive information on preparing your Credo and the questions used for the Final Classis Examination.
  + Credo - a 15 or more-page (minimum) credo (or “I believe statement) written using program guidelines and integrating main headings in theology with the individual’s statements of faith and commitment. The credo is also to reflect an understanding of the nature and administration of the sacraments and a theologically reformed perspective. The document is written toward the end of the training plan, supervised by the Mentor, and integrates areas related to maturity of faith, theology, sacraments, and standards.  Appended to the credo is a 3-page summary of competency demonstration

1. **Final Steps**

* Submit your Credo\* for approval by the CPT.
* Complete your courses satisfactorily per the Training Plan
* Classis Examination
  + Exams are subjective and are the metric for determining competency.

1. **Commissioning Service and Beyond**

* Commissioning Service by classis
* Submit an annual CP Report to the Classis Clerk
* Participate as a full GLCC member, bringing the hope of Christ to a hurting world.

\*Forms are available on the GLCC Website under Resources <http://www.glcclassis.org/>