



PRESBYTERY of
SAN FRANCISCO

Education Working Group

Announcing the 2025 -2026 Commissioned Pastor Course Offering

We're excited to offer this foundational curriculum for the preparation of our next class of Commissioned Pastors (CPs), AKA Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs), for Particular Pastoral Service. The individual classes are open to auditing and recommended for any and all church leaders for personal growth and development. The formal program for commissioning is open to ordained elders in all Presbyteries in the PCUSA. Candidates for commissioning must come under the care of a minister of word and sacrament, complete a minimum of 12 of the course offerings (three from each area of study), as well as any experiential learning requirements deemed necessary for the particular pastoral service that is being pursued.

What are the course offerings? *Required for all CP candidates.

***Introduction for New Students**

Theology

*Reformed Theology	Feb 6-8, 2025
Soteriology	Mar 13-15, 2025
Theological Diversity	Mar 12-14, 2026

Practical Ministry

*Leading a Multi-Cultural Church	TBD
Spiritual Leadership Development	Jun 12-14, 2025
Intergenerational Ministry	May 7-9, 2026
Liturgy Development	TBD

Pastoral Care and Ministry

*PCUSA Church Polity	Apr 10-12, 2025
Homiletics	Sep 11-13, 2025
Pastoral Counseling	January 8 - 10, 2026
Pastoral Self-Care	TBD
Peacemaking & Conflict Resolution	April 10-12, 2026

Biblical Studies and Comparative Religion

*Biblical Exegesis	May 8-10, 2025
Post-Colonial Hermeneutics	July 10-12, 2025
Overview of the Bible	February 5-7, 2026
Comparative Religions	Oct 9-11, 2025

Commissioned Ruling Elder Applicants

Contact Mary Biasotti, CRE-CP Coordinator (mbiasotti@sfpby.org) or Rev Cynthia Purvis / Rev Dr. Karl Shadley, Education Working Group Co-Chairs (cre-cpprogram@sfpby.org).

For more information

[Commissioned Ruling Elder/ Commissioned Pastor \(CRE/CLP\) Program – Presbytery of San Francisco \(presbyteryofsf.org\)](https://presbyteryofsf.org)

...to equip God's people for works of service
so that the body of Christ may be built up.
Ephesians 4:12

Questions and Answers for the 2025 -2026 CRE/CP Program

Who is eligible to attend the classes? Any church leader interested in furthering their understanding of the Christian faith may attend any and all classes by pre-registration as long as space allows. Only ordained elders in any Presbytery in the PCUSA may apply for consideration as Commissioned Pastor (CP), AKA Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE), for Particular Pastoral Service.

What is the cost of each class and what are the requirements? For individuals auditing the course, the cost is \$40/class and there are no class requirements, though there will be highly recommended readings before each class. For CP candidates, the cost is \$100/class and there will be pre- and post-reading and writing assignments. CPs are required to attend and complete all assignments for at least 12 of the classes offered. Pre-registration is required.

What is the level of commitment for CRE/CP Candidates? Approximately 20-30 hours/month for 12-16 months. This includes 5-10 hours of class preparation (usually readings), 10 hours of instruction, and 5-10 hours of post-class written and/or practicum assignment. CP candidates come under the care of their local Session, must be supervised by a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery in which they will serve, and may be required to participate in directed experiential learning that further prepares the candidate for a specific ministry area.

When and where are classes offered? Classes are offered monthly, usually on the second weekend, but with some exceptions. Most classes will be offered by Zoom from 7PM-9PM on Thursday and Friday evenings and in-person (available on-line for long distance participants) 8:30AM-4:30PM (with break for lunch) on Saturdays unless otherwise stated. In-person classes will be held at the Presbytery of San Francisco Education Center at 545 Ashbury Ave, El Cerrito or other locations in the San Francisco Bay Area as determined by the needs of the class and instructors.

Where do I get more information? Registration, updated class schedule, application forms, instructor bios, and more can be found at [Commissioned Ruling Elders \(CRE/CP\) Program – Presbytery of San Francisco \(presbyteryofsfs.org\)](https://www.presbyteryofsfs.org/cre-cp). Contact the CRE/CP Program Coordinator for more information.

Contact Mary Biasotti, CRE-CP Program Coordinator (mbiasotti@sfpby.org) or Rev Cynthia Purvis / Rev Dr. Karl Shadley, Education Working Group Chair (cre-cpprogram@sfpby.org).