

**4.700 COMMITTEES OF PRESBYTERY: COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY,
SALARY/WORKING AGREEMENTS**

4.704 Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLPs)

- A. To meet the needs of congregations unable to employ an ordained minister, the Presbytery may utilize qualified elders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as Commissioned Lay Pastors. Such persons may be commissioned for a designated period and given authority and responsibility to serve in one or more congregations within this Presbytery, subject to the requirements of the Book of Order.
- B. The function of Commissioned Lay Pastors in The Presbytery of Northern Waters shall be developed, directed, and supervised by a sub-committee of the Committee on Ministry designated Lay Pastors and Their Work (LPTW).
- C. In encouraging and supporting the ministry of Commissioned Lay Pastors, the Presbytery needs to insure that training for such persons be similar in essentials to that of ordained clergy. The Presbytery will hold to the traditional concepts of the Reformed Tradition and expect the mastery of skills necessary to this ministry.
 - 1. Commissioned Lay Pastor candidates shall be members of a Presbyterian Church in The Presbytery of Northern Waters.
 - 2. Candidates for the program shall meet with the LPW Committee to describe their interest in and potential for service as Commissioned Lay Pastors;
 - 3. A candidate shall be recommended by his or her session and minister in separate communications;
 - 4. On entering the program a candidate will present a "faith journey" resume and a statement of faith;
 - 5. Academic achievement and occupational experience will be documented;
 - 6. Ordinarily every candidate for Commissioned Lay Pastor shall complete scheduled work in areas required by the Book of Order;
 - 7. Exceptions to course work may be made if prior academic or work experience is clearly adequate;
 - 8. All candidates will complete the MMPI or other comparable psychological tools and evaluations and be found within clinical norms;
 - 9. Final recommendation is required. This may include evaluations from teaching staff, Lay Pastor Committee, advisor, pastor/moderator, Clerk of Session or others as approved by the committee.
 - 10. First commissioning shall be for no more than one year.

11. Following a positive review and evaluation the Commission may be extended in three-year increments;
12. Because of the variations in limitation of duties across the Church this Presbytery shall specify which duties are allowed;
13. Systematic, ongoing training shall be provided for CLPs.