

For questions about education please contact [TIPS](#).

For questions about Contracts please contact [COM-Contracts Sub-Committee](#).

For Questions about Exam please contact [COM-Exams Sub-Committee](#).

COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR Journey, Presbytery of New Covenant

TIPS - Educates -- Interactive Education TIPS Program requires an ongoing application of learning within the life of the church and Presbytery that includes, Individual and Small group forums, Courses, Events, Understanding Applications, Interactive Study Guide, an Educational Advisor (ordained Pastor) and support from your local sponsoring Church. Completion of the TIPS degree plan*, passing written comprehensive exam, submission of copy of your study guide, graduation and maintaining a current post-graduate status of “educational good standing” is expected for all individuals who wish to serve the Presbytery as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Please request from TIPS the criteria for the Report of Educational Good Standing. *Please see the Degree Plan for details regarding evaluation and transfer of comparable courses. Or if you are transferring to our Presbytery and have completed a comparable alternative educational program please request TIPS to complete an educational evaluation to ascertain if you need to meet any additional educational requirements.

Committee on Ministry - Contracts -- Please request instructions from COM-Contracts for contract criteria, how to negotiate and request approval for a contract. Completing your education requirements does not guarantee an approved contract. Submit your contract for their consideration. Note: TIPS submits to COM-Contracts your current Education Report of Good Standing. You must remain in Educational Good Standing for a contract to be approved and remain active. Contracts are evaluated for suitability as per COM-Contracts guidelines. COM-Contracts may assign you an ordained Minister as a Mentor to help you as you serve as a CLP under contract (this person may or may not be your prior TIPS Educational Advisor).

Committee on Ministry - Exams -- Please request instructions from COM-Exams for when and how to prepare to take this oral exam. Your TIPS passed comprehensive written exam must be submitted to COM-Exams prior to your taking their oral examination. The COM-Exams Committee one time oral exam addresses your ability to demonstrate an understanding of Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral care, and teaching; your ability to share a personal faith statement and articulate your motives for seeking the commission and your suitability to serve in the Presbytery as a CLP. This exam addresses issues broader than those addressed by educational preparation alone; i.e. issues of suitability as per COM-Exam guidelines to serve in a CLP setting. A student may not assume that completing an educational degree plan, passing a written exam, expecting to or receiving an approval of a Contract, implies s/he will automatically pass the COM oral exam. For example, you may be asked to complete more course work because you were not able to articulate and demonstrate adequately your application of knowledge and experience at the appropriate level to successfully pass this exam.

Bottom Line to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbytery of New Covenant takes more than courses passed; more than formal education, more than life experience, more than an approved contract with a church, because it is a discerning interactive process that offers an Elder an opportunity to serve in a unique role in our Presbytery. When you have passed the COM exam and are in an active contract under the guidance of the COM-Contracts Sub-Committee, and are maintaining an educational “good standing,” then and only then may you both serve and identify yourself as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Indeed this is a faith journey that becomes a life time of learning and spiritually growing.