

Guidelines for Appointing a Commissioned Lay Pastor as Moderator of a Congregation

Preparation

1. The CLP passes the online (extended) Polity Course offered by PTS Consortium or UDTs
2. The CLP serves for twelve months in a congregation/s under the supervision of a Mentor/Moderator of session and congregation
3. The CLP takes and passes the written Commissioned Lay Pastor Polity Examination

COM Process

1. COM appoints a Task Group to meet with the CLP for an oral examination on readiness to serve as moderator of a congregation.
2. COM appoints representatives to meet with the congregation where the CLP is serving to explore advisability of appointing the CLP as moderator.
3. If the results of the oral examination and the congregational consultation are favorable for appointing the CLP as moderator, the COM TG makes a recommendation to COM for a vote on whether to recommend that the presbytery appoint the CLP as moderator .
4. COM may approve the recommendation to appoint as an “If the way be clear” motion, pending the results of the TG oral examination and the consultation with the congregations.

Conditions for Appointment of a CLP as Moderator

1. If indicated by COM, the session must be willing to undertake a Less Than Critical Mass “Discerning Your Church’s Future” Consultation, either prior to or congruent with the appointment of the CLP as Moderator.
2. The CLP must demonstrate willingness to continue to work with an appointed supervisor, who will be a Minister of Word and Sacrament.
3. If the congregation is withholding per capita, then the complexity of the polity, stewardship, and congregational care issues involved mean that the congregation would be better served by a Minister of Word and Sacrament as moderator rather than a CLP.
4. The appointment of a CLP, whether serving as moderator or not, is for one year, renewable annually when requested by both CLP and Session. COM processes the renewal requests, and makes a recommendation to presbytery.