

CPM Session Orientation Sample

Updated Spring 2019

Introductions of CPM Members

We're here tonight to equip you to celebrate and support _____ as he/she discerns God's call on his/her life.

Before we talk specifics, we're going to step back and consider what it means to be called...

The Church's ministry is a gift from Jesus Christ to the Church...within the Church all are called to serve, using their various gifts, and then some called to particular ministries...what we call the ordered ministries of the church: Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder and Deacon

No matter how we are called to serve, it is always an act of God...it is evidenced by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the individual conscience, and then somehow approved by the community of God's people.

For some, that call might come in the form a phone call asking to teach Sunday School, which might then be affirmed by a team overseeing that work. For others, it might be a call to participate in a particular mission, a call which is then affirmed by that ministry team.

No matter the scenario, it always starts with God's call.

When you think about God's call, what Biblical stories come to mind?

What about you, do you have a call story you'd like to share?

YOUR OWN CALL STORY

Tonight, we're talking about one particular call, that to the ministry of Teaching Elder.

And when God calls, God always gives suitable gifts for their various duties. But even more than gifts and abilities those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgement of a council of the church.

And that's where the ordination process comes into play

By way of overview, that process looks like this:

- Inquiry
- Candidacy
- Final Assessment

Requirements for Ordination

In particular, we're here to talk about your role in the call of _____. _____ has heard God's call, so what happens next?

That's where you as the Session, and then CPM come into play.

Having heard God's call, _____ is coming (tonight?) to receive the approval of this body. You'll have a chance to interview him/her, learn more about his/her sense of call, ask about his/her gifts for ministry, etc. (see attached page)

Assuming this body affirms his/her sense of call, you'll vote to endorse him/her as an Inquirer, appoint a Session liaison, and covenant to support and care for him/her.

A little bit about the Session liaison

Having done that, _____ will then prepare to meet with us as CPM.

Assuming all goes well, in roughly a year, _____ will come back before this body to be endorsed for Candidacy. That meeting is an intentional opportunity to hear about how he/she has progressed on his/her goals, what God is doing in his/her life, what's learning about himself/herself and his/her sense of call, etc.

And then, again, assuming you endorse him/her, he/she'll again come before CPM for Candidacy.

Once _____ becomes a Candidate, this body doesn't make any other formal recommendations...however your support and care for _____ continues until he/she's ordained (and after). **DON'T TAKE HIM/HER OFF YOUR ROLES**

Side by side of your work, CPM is doing its own work...together we support candidates through the ordination process, so that they are well prepared for ministry.

The role of CPM

It is the presbytery that has the responsibilities for oversight of the person's preparation, to make a decision about suitability for ministry, and finally to assess readiness to seek a call to ministry that would require ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

I think this work is best understood around the idea of covenant. In this case there are three partners...the person under care, you as the session, and CPM, which is working on behalf of Presbytery.

Questions?