

Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

Faith Statement & Autobiography

Please attach a brief statement of your personal faith. Describe what you believe about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and your relationship to them. Include a brief summary of your understanding of the role of scripture, the church, and the sacraments in your life.

Also attach an autobiography using the attached guidelines.

Session Moderator's Endorsement

You should take your completed form and your Faith Statement to your pastor, or if your church is without a pastor, to the moderator of your church's Session. Your moderator will take your application to the Session, along with a reference she or he will complete. No application may be considered without this and the Session's endorsement.

Session Endorsement

After you have met with the moderator, request a meeting with the Session of your particular church. They will review your application with you before filling out their endorsement form.

References

In addition to the moderator and the Session, please list three (3) additional persons who you know well, in a variety of relationships, who will serve as individual references. Duplicate an Individual Reference Form to each, asking that the form be completed and sent directly to Beverly Dodson, bevdotd@gmail.com or 1122 Camelot Circle, Birmingham, AL 35226.

Statement of Consent

I am applying for admission to the CRE Program of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. If accepted, I hereby commit myself to participate fully in the scheduled activities and assignments to the best of my ability. I understand that successful completion of the program does not necessarily mean that I will be assigned to a specific commission in the future. All commissions require the approval of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley upon recommendation of the COM.

Signature

Date

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Autobiography Guidelines

Writing our autobiographies is a useful exercise in self-reflection; also a way to get in touch with our personal stories and make use of them in ministry. Following are some suggestions for the content of your autobiography. They are intended to be stimuli for remembering and writing; not required areas to be covered in depth. Feel free to use the suggestions in ways that allow you to tell your story as honestly as you can.

Your autobiography will greatly help the COM to know you as a person and be able to offer more helpful feedback as you journey through the process of becoming a candidate for Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

Content of Autobiography

Birth

Parents and Grandparents

Siblings

Home life; environment

Childhood

Religious development

School Years

College Years

Career

Marriage

Birth of Children

We suggest the length of your autobiography to be no more three to five typed, double-spaced pages. If you have questions, please contact Beverly Dodson at 205-823-0162 or bevdod@gmail.com.