

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Report to Hudson River Presbytery
January 2018**

Over the past year, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and the Commissioned Ruling Elder Committee (CREC) have merged. The reasoning for this was simple: as both committees work with those preparing for ministry, why not have them under the same umbrella?

With this merge came a review of the commissioning process for ruling elders, not as a means to determine the future of the program, but as a way to clarify its purpose, goals, and process. Our review led us to align the steps towards commissioning as much as possible with the steps toward ordination. This has resulted in making some changes to the commissioning process—for example, ruling elders will now go for their psychological evaluation/vocational assessment at the beginning of the process instead of towards the end, and the evaluations offered will be more robust than they have been previously—but the process as a whole remains largely the same.

In addition to the review of the commissioning process, we have also spent time updating and revising forms and position descriptions, which will be available on the new HRP website soon. These include:

- CRE Program Overview
- CRE Steps To Commissioning
- CRE Seminar Purpose and Content
- CRE and CPM Process Side by Side
- CRE Application
- Session Liaison Position Description
- CPM Liaison Position Description
- CRE Seminar Dean Position Description

This presbytery is blessed with a strong commissioning process for ruling elders, and it is our hope and prayer that our work over the past year will enhance it further.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett, chair