## Course of Study

The program consists of Core courses, Practice of Ministry courses, and a nine-month supervised field education experience.

## Core Courses

With the approval of the CRE Task Team, a candidate may complete this work through a variety of options, including, but not limited to:

Dubuque Theological Seminary
563-589-3112  www.udts.dbq.edu

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
512-404-4800  www.austinseminary.edu

Union Theological Seminary
212-662-7100  www.upsem.edu/pathways

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus
(614) 235-4136  www.tlsohio.edu

Methodist Theological School, Delaware
Lay Certificate Program  www.mtso.edu

*Total costs will vary according to the candidate's choice of educational settings.*

## Recommended Course Order

Introduction to Old Testament
Introduction to New Testament
Reformed Theology
Preaching
Christian Education
Presbyterian Polity
Reformed Worship & Sacraments

## Additional Requirements

– Alternative Clinical Experience
– Communication Coaching
– Ethics and Healthy Boundaries

## Field Education Experience

The student will be required to complete a nine-month field education experience in a pastoral setting, supervised by a person serving in such a position. This field education will incorporate a written plan for this experience and will be approved by the CRE Task Team prior to its beginning.  This training will also include:

Administration and Leadership
Pastoral Care
Spiritual Formation
Worship Leadership / Preaching

## Certification/Commissioning

Each student who successfully completes the CRE training program will be certified by the CRE Task Team, and ready to be considered for commissioning by the Church Professionals Commission (CCP).

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley
4131 N. High Street, Suite B
Columbus, OH  43214
Phone: 614.847.0565 or
800.244.7207
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# Certified Ruling Elder (CRE) Training Program

## The Presbytery of Scioto Valley



*Partners in Christ's Service*

**Called to ministries of grace**

**Presbytery of Scioto Valley**

Partners in Mission
as we seek to bring the good news of Christ to an ever-changing culture.

## The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Certified Ruling Elder Training Program (CRE)

There is a growing need to provide competent ministerial leadership in churches which do not have the resources but have the need for regular pastoral leadership. In view of this need and in keeping with the Reformed tradition, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley has determined that its strategy for mission requires authorization of ruling elders to be commissioned to pastoral service as designated by the Presbytery. The certified ruling elder (CRE) training program was established to implement this policy.

In conjunction with the individual and the individual's congregation, the training program serves to determine the person's fitness for this specialized form of ministry, and to equip, oversee and authorize his or her potential service as a CRE.

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation in ministry by the presbytery. (G-2.1002)

## Qualifications

Applicants for the CRE training program must be ordained ruling elders within the PC U.S.A. They will ordinarily have served as an elder for at least two years and have finished a college degree program.

The application process involves the following steps:

- Receive the Session endorsement, support and sponsorship of his or her home congregation
- Submit an application to the CRE Task Team of the Presbytery Commission for Church Professionals
- Be interviewed by the CRE Task Team
- Pass a background check
- Receive a favorable evaluation by the Midwest Ministry Development Service

The CRE task team will determine the applicant's suitability for acceptance into the program. The decision will be based upon, but not limited to, the above factors.

## Administration

Oversight and administration of the Certified Ruling Elder (CRE) program shall be the responsibility of the CRE Task Team of the Commission for Church Professionals, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

Updated May 5, 2022

## Why a CRE Program?

The CRE program is an expansion of the Church's mission in a changing world. The ministry of Commissioned Ruling Elders brings a marvelous richness to a congregation's ministry and to the presbytery's mission. Commissioned Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders are partners in mission as we seek to bring the good news of Christ to an ever-changing culture.



## Where Do CRE's Serve?

Although many CRE's serve as part-time pastors of small churches, there are other roles to which a person might be commissioned. Some of these are transitional ministry, parish associate or member of a ministry team.