

So you’re a CPM liaison…

As liaison to an inquirer or candidate, you have the privilege of serving as the primary mentor and guide through the process of preparation for ministry and representing the efforts of all of CPM between consultations.

We hope the experience of being an inquirer or candidate is one marked with nurture, care, and thoughtful guidance from the presbytery. Liaisons have the greatest opportunities to facilitate that experience and below are some suggestions to guide *you* as a liaison.

* Learn the background of your inquirer or candidate, if you do not already know it: parents, siblings, school, college, vocational interests and abilities, birthday, name of spouse (if married), name(s) of child(ren) (if any), (proposed) seminary, progress toward ordination, financial needs, etc.
* Visit, write or phone to introduce yourself.
* Become acquainted in ways that seem natural to you and the inquirer or candidate.
* Take an interest in his/her academic, field education, annual consultation and other activities related to preparation for ministry of the teaching elder.
* Share with the committee, especially at the time of the annual consultation, any areas of particular need for the inquirer or candidate - whether financial or personal.
* Become aware of when the inquirer or candidate will be home and try to make some contact, even if only a phone call.
* Be present if at all possible at the presbytery meeting at which the inquirer is examined to move to candidacy.
* And, be present if at all possible at the presbytery meeting at which the candidate is examined for ordination.
* Be present if at all possible at the service of ordination and/or installation.
* Remember your inquirer or candidate in prayer.
* Write your inquirer or candidate on special occasions (e.g. birthdays or anniversaries).
* Become acquainted with the “Preparation for Ministry” manuals of the denomination and your presbytery so that you are aware of requirements and procedures and can provide timely support (e.g. appearances before presbytery, annual consultations, presbyteries’ cooperative examinations, final assessment, etc.).
* In a word, be a friend and lend to your inquirer or candidate a sense of your personal, moral and spiritual interest in and support of him/her in training for the ministry of the teaching elder.

And, for your own growth, plan to attend state or synod training for CPM liaisons as you are available.