So, Pastor, you’re thinking

of encouraging someone

to consider ministry …

Perhaps you have seen some great leadership skills in a member of the church? Or someone has a tremendous faith and a gift of teaching? Or, perhaps, someone has approached you, asking about going to seminary? However the Holy Spirit is working in your congregation, we, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), want to help you encourage this person in discernment toward the ministry of teaching elder.

The first formal step in helping someone pursue the ministry of teaching elder is to contact the moderator of CPM or the Stated Clerk of presbytery. A member of CPM will then make arrangements with the session of the church to orient them to the process. All potential inquirers are encouraged to get in touch with the presbytery’s CPM early in their discernment so that CPM can provide them with support and counsel as early as possible

You can help guide him/her through the beginning of the process in the following ways:

* Direct him/her to the denominational website for application forms 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, and 2B:

 http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/prep4min/forms-used-preparation-ministry-process/

* Familiarize yourself with these same forms.
* Encourage him/her to attend an exploratory weekend at a Presbyterian seminary.
* Be open and ready for questions! (And know that you can always contact the moderator of CPM for answers you don’t have.)

And, if there are currently no people perceiving a call to ministry, below are some ways to foster discernment in your congregation.

* Challenge all members to become aware of their Christian vocations.
* Develop and implement thoughtful and creative means by which highly qualified persons may be challenged to consider a vocation in ordered ministry.
* Give high priority to developing and maintaining vital, theologically sound youth programs in harmony with the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions.
* Assure that youth ministry leaders are carefully selected and trained, theologically competent and appropriate role models.
* Don’t overlook possible second- or third-careers seminarians who naturally bring years of leadership experience and a deepened faith.