

Commissioned Moderator Opportunity for Ruling Elders

Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

A program designed to allow qualified Ruling Elders to
Serve the Church

Share their leadership gifts

**Make a Difference for Congregations
without Session Moderators**

From a Gift Comes a Shared Presence

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois has received a "Rise Up" grant from the Synod of Lincoln Trails to be utilized for training and commissioning ruling elders to serve as moderators of sessions in congregations without regular pastoral leadership. This is an opportunity for ruling elders to serve the church and share their leadership gifts with congregations in need of assistance.

Ruling Elders who complete the Commissioned Moderator program will be expected to:

- Schedule regular and special called meetings of the session.
- Moderate called congregational meetings.
- Along with the Clerk of Session, create an agenda for session meetings.
- Open and close meetings with prayers/devotions and attend to the spiritual nurture of the session.
- Represent the Presbytery in the life of the congregation.
- Help the church session discover what God is calling its particular congregation to be and do.
- Train, ordain, and install ruling elders and deacons
- Coordinate with the Commission on Ministry
- Preside at monthly or quarterly scheduled session meetings. Time commitment will be approximately 3-5 hours.

Commissioned Moderator Compensation

Commissioned Moderators will be compensated by the church they serve:

- \$100 per quarter if the Session meets once per quarter, and mileage paid at the IRS business rate (Yr. 2020 = \$.575/mile).
- \$50.00 per meeting if a Session meets more than once a quarter and mileage paid at the IRS business rate (Yr. 2020 = \$.575/mile).
- An annual or congregational meeting is \$50.00 and mileage paid at the IRS business rate (Yr. 2020 = \$.575/mile).

Scope of the Commissioned Moderator Duties

The Commissioned Moderator has an important but limited role and as such will not:

- Be required to preach
- Conduct pastoral counseling or calling
- Preside at the sacraments in worship
- Do building repairs or maintenance
- Recruit members to serve on church boards or committees

Training Timetable

Training for the Commissioned Moderator Program will involve three classes each of which will last from 1 to 1 & 1/2 hours in length. For the time being, these classes will be conducted remotely on Zoom.

- **Presbyterian Polity for Session Meetings** - This class will cover, who's in charge of making decisions about what? How do you call a meeting? What are the basics of Robert's Rules of Order and why do we use them? What needs to be recorded in the minutes? And more polity tidbits!
- **Session Meeting Leadership** – How to help elders work together as the body of Christ. The moderator's role during a discussion. How to help the session keep focused on the mission of the church. And more leadership nuggets!
- **Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders** – How to keep one's faith alive and growing while leading a church session. How to incorporate spiritual practices into session meetings. How to be a resilient leader and when to ask for help. And more spiritual morsels!

Ongoing Support

In addition to the training classes, there will be an online "Toolkit" available that contains information and other helps for leading a church session. Also, after completing the commissioning process, all ruling elders in the program will be a part of an ongoing peer support group to share ideas and brainstorm answers to challenges that arise

Interested in being a part of this program?

Fill out the attached application and return it to the Moderator Development Team by January 15, 2021. If you are accepted into the program and go through the training, the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry will be responsible for making a final examination and decision on whether or not you will be commissioned to a congregation. It should be noted that our current Book of Order does not permit ruling elders to serve as a moderator of their own church session.

If you have further questions about the program or how you might become a part of it, please feel free to contact: mdt@psei.net.

Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois
Commissioned Moderator Program
Application Form

NAME: _____

CHURCH: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE NO: () _____

EMAIL: _____

Number of years ordained as a Presbyterian Ruling Elder.

How many years have you served on a Session?

How many different moderators have you experienced during that time?

Why are you interested in serving as a Session Moderator?

What other experience do you have as the chair of a voting committee, board, or other organization?

What is the largest group (in any organization) of which you have been a chair and for how long?

How comfortable and proficient are you with Robert's Rules of Order?

How knowledgeable do you think you are about the Book of Order?

Do you have the ability/experience to conduct meetings via Zoom or other electronic means?

How do you handle conflict in a group setting? How do you avoid taking sides and get folks to communicate without raising the temperature in the room?

What special gifts, talents, and skills do you have that will help you be an effective Session Moderator?

Are there any elements of being a Session Moderator on which you believe you especially need further training?

Do you believe you have the ability to meet the time requirements as outlined in the

program overview? What other barriers might stand in the way of you being able to serve as moderator of a session?

References: Name, current Email address, and Phone Number for Contact.

A Presbyterian Teaching Elder:

A Presbyterian Ruling Elder:

Please submit this application and a Letter of Recommendation/Endorsement for this ministry from your home Session to the Moderator Development Team (mdt@psei.net)