

PSCE Sponsored Cohort Groups for Commissioned Ruling Elders/Commissioned Pastors

Commissioned Ruling Elders/Commissioned Pastors (CRE/CP) in the Presbyterian Church (USA) are invited to participate in a cohort whose goals are collegial support, sharing new ideas, and learning best practices for ministry. The cohorts are designed to fulfill the church's need for such support and to strengthen the ministry of CRE/CPs.

These cohorts will meet monthly for the 2025 calendar year. Groups will consist of up to eight participants and a facilitator. The cohorts will meet for two hours once each month on Zoom. Participants will be offered a stipend of \$500 for the year.

Each participant must have a current commission in effect, serving as solo pastor in a congregation. Topics for engagement by participants will include spiritual disciplines and practices, seasonal needs in the church's program year (i.e., Advent, church school, Session meetings, educational opportunities), and the sharing of the needs and concerns of each participant. Preparation for meetings may include short reading assignments.

This program is sponsored by Union Presbyterian Seminary's PSCE program (Presbyterians Supporting Christian Education) which provides support for those in ministry in the PC(USA). The CRE/CP cohorts were held in 2023 after a six month testing period in 2022. Cohorts are also provided currently for Christian Educators. This initiative for CRE/CP expands the meaning of Christian Education to include the broader work of the church. Learn more about it at <https://www.upsem.edu/psce/>

Educator Cohorts: Educators and Ministers are invited to participate in one of four cohorts for the 2025 calendar year. The Cohorts will meet monthly and will provide the following:

- A collegial and collaborative experience for participants
- A personal and professional opportunity for growth
- A sharing of resources for the educational ministry of the church

Cohorts will:

- Commit to meeting monthly for one year
- Be provided a facilitator who will communicate with the group and facilitate meeting schedules and online communication strategies
- Decide on resources and/or topics for each session
- Respond to an evaluation tool Cohorts will include eight participants plus a facilitator.

Meetings begin in January 2025 and run through December 2025. A stipend of \$500 is offered to each participant. Be a part of enhancing the importance and value of education in the life of the church through your participation.

Deadline for applications is **November 30, 2024**. The cohorts will run from January to December 2025. Contact: Marilyn Johns at marilynjohns2@gmail.com