

**The Presbytery of Long Island  
Committee on Ministry**

**COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER CONTRACT**

The Presbytery/Committee on Ministry, having consulted with the Session of the

\_\_\_\_\_ Church

and Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_

hereby commissions Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_

to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder at the \_\_\_\_\_ Church

for a period of one year, beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

The Presbytery/Committee on Ministry may extend the commission by mutual agreement of all parties for periods not to exceed one year at a time.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Commissioned Ruling Elder is accountable to the Presbytery, through a Mentor appointed by the Committee on Ministry, and to the Session.

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER**

In addition to the usual responsibilities of a Pastor, the Commissioned Ruling Elder is granted permission to perform the following tasks (check all that apply):

- Administer The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper \_\_\_\_\_
- Administer The Sacrament of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_
- Perform Marriages as allowed by New York State law \_\_\_\_\_
- Moderate Session Meetings \_\_\_\_\_
- Have voice and vote at Presbytery Meetings \_\_\_\_\_

(Permission is withheld for those items not checked.)

The Commissioned Ruling Elder will serve full/part-time of \_\_\_\_\_ hours/week.

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE SESSION**

- 1) Will provide collegial support and consultation in working with the Commissioned Ruling Elder and the Presbytery.
- 2) Will review the Commissioned Ruling Elder's work through the appropriate committee at least annually.
- 3) Will provide reasonable time away as needed to allow the Commissioned Ruling Elder to fulfill responsibilities in the larger church.
- 4) Will provide compensation to the Commissioned Ruling Elder as delineated on the attached form (D.05.01).

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY**

- 1) Will provide support and consultative services to the Commissioned Ruling Elder through the Committee on Ministry.
- 2) Will assist the Session and the Commissioned Ruling Elder with emerging needs through the committees, task forces, and work groups of the Presbytery.

**MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS**

Will provide spiritual support to one another as members of the family of Christ.

**ECCLESIASTICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS OF THE COMMISSION**

- This commission is limited to providing pastoral services as indicated above (including marriages and funerals) only within the congregation of the \_\_\_\_\_ and its immediate community within the hamlet/village/city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- CRE may not participate in any leadership role within any church other than the \_\_\_\_\_, including the \_\_\_\_\_, in which the CRE retains his/her active membership.
- Any ministry activity outside of the above limitations must have prior approval of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery.

**EXTENSION/TERMINATION**

The Book of Order, in G-2.1004, provides that “The presbytery may at any time withdraw the commission for reasons it deems good and sufficient.” If either the Session or the Commissioned Ruling Elder wishes to terminate the relationship, they should consult with the Committee On Ministry immediately.

If the Session and the Commissioned Ruling Elder wish to extend the relationship, normally they should consult with the Committee On Ministry two months in advance of its expiration.

**SIGNATURES**

Commissioned Ruling Elder	Date

Clerk of Session	Date

Chair, Committee on Ministry	Date

Committee on Ministry, January 2017