

Presbytery of Transylvania
Application to Serve on Presbytery Commissions and/or Ministries

The Presbytery of Transylvania depends on the participation of Ruling and Teaching Elders as well as members of our congregations, who support our mission and are willing to serve on one of our various Commissions and Ministries. Our collective ministry is lived out, not only in the communities in which we live and work, but in our communal work to provide structure and support for our congregations across the woods.

If you are feeling called to serve on one of our Commissions or Ministries, please complete the following form and send to Robyn Justus at rjustus@transypby.org.

Below are some of the opportunities to serve. To serve on a commission, you must be a Ruling or Teaching Elder. To serve on a ministry, there are no restrictions.

Administration Commission

The duties of the Administration Commission shall include serving as the Trustees of the Presbytery. The Trustees are empowered to receive, to hold, to encumber, to manage, and to transfer property, real or personal, for the Presbytery; to accept and to execute deeds of title to such property and to hold and to defend title to such property. The Commission has the responsibility of staff services and shall be responsible for supervision of the staff of the Presbytery. The Commission is responsible for overseeing the accounting and budgeting for the presbytery. The Commission shall obtain budget recommendations from the appropriate Commissions and Ministries of the Presbytery and develop, propose, and monitor, in consultation with the Treasurer, the presbytery budget.

Burnamwood Commission

The Burnamwood Commission shall be responsible for oversight of the Burnamwood Camp and Conference Center including Development and Awareness (fund development, publicity, and promotion); Program (oversight of summer camping, retreats and conferences); and Site Management (maintenance and improvement of the site).

Christian Formation Ministry

The Christian Formation Ministry shall be responsible for coordinating the Presbytery's work in strengthening and supporting congregations in their faithful discipleship through Biblical and theological knowledge and spiritual formation and areas of mission including youth, young adults and campus ministry.

Church Revitalization & Development Ministry

The Church Revitalization and Development Ministry exists to work with current churches engaging in revitalization and transformation efforts and to promote and encourage the development of new worshiping communities.

Closing Commission

The Closing Commission shall be composed of five members. The Closing Commission shall counsel with congregations that have indicated their desire to end their relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or those that have reached the completion of their effective ministry. This commission shall receive referrals from the Presbytery, the Commission on Congregational Issues or the Coordinating Commission. This commission shall determine a course of action, either division, dismissal, or dissolution, negotiate the terms of such action, and recommend it to the Presbytery for final approval. Such negotiations include consultation with the Administrative (Trustees) Commission.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry shall fulfill the functions related to the process of preparation for ordination as Teaching Elder and shall provide for the training and nurture of Ruling Elders who apply to become Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs). The CPM shall elect Teaching and Ruling Elders to serve as readers for ordination examinations.

Commission on Representation

The Commission on Representation is tasked with an intentional purpose: to ensure the church's commitment to inclusiveness and the principles of unity and diversity. To this end, the COR is charged with the responsibility of Nominating. COR shall nominate to the Presbytery a Moderator, a Vice-Moderator and a Treasurer, members of the standing Commissions, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all the Commissions and Ministries, members at large of the CC, Commissioners to other councils of the church, and representatives to boards and agencies. Ordinarily, the list of nominees shall be presented for election at the final stated meeting of the Presbytery. The COR shall advise the CC with respect to its membership and the membership of all Presbytery Commissions and Ministries, groups, and entities, including boards and agencies, to ensure fair and effective representation in the decision making bodies of the Presbytery.

Congregational Issues Commissions

The Congregational Issues Commission will assist congregations with any difficult issues that arise. The Congregational Issues Commission will work with congregations that might need assistance in dealing with concerns related to congregational life that are not conflict situations, but in which outside consultation might be helpful. This commission will work closely with Church Development to help focus resources on congregational health and vitality. In addition, this commission may work closely with the Pastoral Transitions Commission if issues arise in congregations with temporary pastors or that are in transition.

Coordinating Commission

The Coordinating Commission shall set forth mission directions, goals, objectives and priorities as it is guided by the Presbytery's Mission Statement, shall regularly review the Presbytery's Mission Statement, and, together with all Commissions and Ministries of the

Presbytery, shall be responsible for coordinating the work of the Presbytery between its meetings and for ensuring that the decisions made by the Presbytery are carried out.

Leadership Development Ministry

The Leadership Development Ministry would oversee the content and schedule of Leadership Development for the Presbytery. While there is overlap with the area of Spiritual formation, this group would look at issues of conflict management, leadership, organizational change, and the need for adaptive change process. This group would be tasked with the training, oversight and continued education of Commissioned Ruling Elders. They would also work with newly ordained clergy, Pastors new to the Presbytery and consider developing a coaching program for clergy. This group would provide Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training at regular intervals to insure that all Teaching Elders and employees of Transylvania Presbytery, and any volunteers under the supervision of Transylvania Presbytery, including officers, those serving on its Commissions and Ministries, boards and support of its programs, may be trained every five years.

Mission Ministry

The Mission Ministry shall seek to strengthen and support congregations in their mission to their communities and to the world, and to assist in coordinating mission opportunities within the Presbytery. The Mission Ministry shall endeavor to ascertain what mission is happening in and through the congregations of the Presbytery and help to communicate that information and opportunities for service throughout the Presbytery; shall respond to resources and training for congregations to educate and inform them about mission opportunities within the local community and worldwide; shall strive to connect congregations within the Presbytery who may have common mission interests and goals; shall promote and inform congregations of denominational special offerings and programs for mission. The Mission Ministry may coordinate mission initiatives within or beyond the Presbytery, in particular in times of disaster and difficulty, so that the particular contributions of the Presbytery's congregations can more efficiently be distributed and then reported and shared throughout the Presbytery. The Mission Ministry shall also be responsible for supporting the work of congregations and the Presbytery as they witness to the love of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry, sheltering the poor and homeless, welcoming the stranger, encouraging the care and protection of God's creation, and promoting social justice.

Pastoral Transitions Commissions

The Pastoral Transitions Commission shepherds a congregation from the moment a Pastoral leader decides to leave, is removed from office or retires until a new leader is formally installed. This commission would be responsible for working with the Session to determine the best course of action for a congregation searching for new, permanent leadership, including all the various steps of the PNC process including examining and receiving the new Teaching Elder/CRE, approving any Interim contracts and new terms of call. They would also work on a suggested Installation Commission for the newly called Pastor. The design of this commission would be to create a "turn-key" process to ease the burden, eliminate the confusion and lower the anxiety for congregations in tran-

sition. They would also recommend Presbytery minimum terms of call each year after a thorough evaluation of national and local salary trends. This commission shall appoint moderators to Sessions of churches with leadership vacancies due to the search process and other duties assigned by the Presbytery or Coordinating Commission. This commission may recruit, seek additional help, and build teams with people not on the commission for short-term projects when necessary.

Willing to serve on any Commission/Ministry

Distance I am willing to drive to a meeting _____

Willing to Moderate a Session for a church without a Pastor (Teaching Elders)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Congregation: _____

Teaching Elder Ruling Elder Member

Talents/skills/training you have that you feel would benefit a particular commission or ministry?

Please tell us in which areas you are interested in this particular service.