

# Support for Ordination Exams

Transylvania Presbytery Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Congratulations! You are at the point in your ordination journey where you are ready to take one or more senior ordination exams. This is an accomplishment. We are proud of you and hold you in prayer as you continue to pursue ordained ministry in Christ's Church.

Though the exams are a cause for celebration, we know they can also be a source of great anxiety and stress. Every once in a while, a particular exam or question may even bring up past traumas or current traumatic experiences. Because you are under care of our presbytery, the CPM of Transylvania Presbytery takes seriously its commitment to care for you. In light of the 2023 changes to the exam "Honor Statement," the CPM aims to support its candidates for ordination by providing resources for cares and support you can access particularly in the midst of ordination exams.

As of summer 2023, the ordination exam honor code does not preclude you from seeking pastoral or mental health support during the exam period provided no material assistance is given in answering the exam questions themselves. Of course, it is not always possible to secure a last-minute appointment with a mental health professional in the midst of taking an exam. The following individuals are willing to provide last-minute pastoral and/or mental health care to exam takers (providing they are available). The presbytery will be directly billed by these individuals for one one-hour session. Additional assistance may be available for up to \$300 by contacting your CPM shepherd.

1. James Stillwell, D.Min – Kentucky Licensed Pastoral Counselor with the Interfaith Counseling Center (\$150 per session)  
859.940.3241  
<https://drjamesstillwell.com/>  
*After an initial consult, James may refer clients to a different therapist with training and experience in trauma work.*

If a candidate seeks mental health support from another mental health professional (including a pre-existing care provider), they may request reimbursement from the CPM for up to \$300. Such requests should be made immediately after seeking care by contacting your CPM shepherd. Additional trauma counselors are included in Appendix A. The presbytery has no arrangement with these counselors, but candidates may desire to seek support with one of these individuals.

Should you find it is not possible to complete an exam, please contact the CPM chair as soon as possible to arrange for a future exam or an alternative form of examination.

If you have any questions about this, please talk with your CPM shepherd or CPM chair.

# Support for Ordination Appendix A: Central KY Trauma Counselors

*In alphabetical order by last name*

Jessica Bowlinger, Lexington ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Margaret Brooks, Berea ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Luke Buckman, Lexington ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Tracey Caudell, Georgetown ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Paul Dalton, Lexington ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Theresa Fitzpatrick-Barkley, Lexington ([profile](#))

Leeann Hayslett, Lexington ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Blake Jones, Wilmore ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Jonathan Mitchell, Lexington ([Psychology Today profile](#))

Crystal Shepherd, Nicholasville ([Psychology Today profile](#))