The presbytery is responsible for providing worship, preaching, celebration of the sacraments, pastoral care and leadership for its churches (Bk of Order, G-3.0301). To provide proper training for authorized persons to preach and lead worship, and offer other pastoral functions for churches, our five presbyteries have developed a program of core courses, workshops, and supervised ministry experiences.

One purpose of the program is training ruling elders for preaching and leading. Smaller churches are looking for part-time lay pastors (CPs /CREs) to lead them; others rely on lay preachers to do that. Churches of all sizes have occasional need of capable pulpit supply preachers, or may need a trained leader for a particular ministry such as visiting homebound members.

But also, this is available education and enrichment for all elders in our Presbyterian Church (USA).

Do you feel that God is calling you to a type of ministry serving churches week by week? Could this be a vocation where you belong? Opportunities for commissioned service are on the increase, and each presbytery’s need is growing.

For more information, contact your presbytery.

How the Program Works

There are three components to this 4 semester program.

1. Courses (all four (4) are required)

These classes have face-to-face meetings at least three times during the 15 week term. There will be online assignments also. They will be common to the whole cohort.

- Intro to the New Testament Term 1
- Intro to the Old Testament Term 2
- Intro to Reformed Theology Term 3
- Intro to Reformed Worship/Sacraments Term 4
2. Workshops *(participate in six (6); four (4) are required)*

The workshops will be led at each presbytery on a rotating basis. The format will be a 3-4 hour session on one day. You may attend the workshop in any presbytery to find a date that best suits your schedule. These may be taken simultaneously with the Courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Examples of Elective Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethics/Boundaries</td>
<td>Advanced Reformed Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care</td>
<td>Advanced Scriptures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polity</td>
<td>Church Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proclaiming the Word</td>
<td>Evangelism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preaching for Advent/Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderating Effective Session Mtgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spiritual Formation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Field Education/Practicum *(participate in each after completing prerequisite)*

Each Field Education/Practicum will be under the direction of an experienced supervisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Prerequisite Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Administration</td>
<td>Polity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care</td>
<td>Pastoral Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preaching</td>
<td>Proclaiming the Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship/Sacraments</td>
<td>Polity and Proclaiming the Word</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What the Program Costs

*IPLF is subsidized by the presbyteries of Redstone, Washington, Upper Ohio Valley, Kiskiminetas, and Pittsburgh. In addition, the Synod of the Trinity has provided grant money to underwrite portions of this program.*

Coursework

The cost to the participant is **$250 per term for tuition**. That is a total cost of $1000 for the coursework. *All checks should be made payable to Redstone Presbytery and mailed to Bobbie Martin, Redstone Presbytery, 1004 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601*

Books and Supplies

Some books will be provided by the program. However, you will be responsible to purchase additional books and supplies.

How to Apply

- Complete the application sections below (*Part 1 and Part 2*).
- Meet with your Session for their endorsement and get Moderator’s or Clerk’s signature.
- Contact your presbytery to meet with an appropriate committee for endorsement and signature.
- Once completed, return Application and Endorsements to the IPLF Registrar, Nancy Youmans
  - By mail: Nancy Youmans
    - Washington Presbytery
    - P. O. Box 146
    - Eighty Four, PA 15330
    - Phone: 724-222-1500
  - Or scan and email: [office@washingtonpresbytery.org](mailto:office@washingtonpresbytery.org)
APPLICATION FORM – Part 1
Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation

Name_________________________________________________________ Date_____________________

Address_________________________________________________________________________________

Primary Phone No.___________________________ Email _______________________________________

Education _______________________________________________________________________________

Home Church___________________________________ How long have you been a member of this church? __________

Offices held in Church or Presbytery _________________________________________________________

Most courses/workshops will be on Saturday (usually once a month).

Will employment hinder your participation? (yes/no) ______

If yes, please explain_____________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

Other activities you are involved in that may help or hinder your participation:

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________
APPLICATION FORM – Part 2

Please write a short response to each of the following items.

1. Briefly describe your Christian faith and faith journey.

2. What gifts do you possess that will help you to do this work?

3. Do you feel there are any barriers to your involvement in the program?

4. Is there anything else that will help the committee to know you and your ‘sense of call’?

• If accepted into the IPLF program, I commit myself to participate fully in all scheduled activities and assignments, including supervision by my presbytery’s oversight committee.
• I understand that my presbytery will decide on my suitability for any particular commissioned service.
• I also understand that the completion of the program does not guarantee commissioning.

______________________________________________________
Signature of Applicant

______________________________________________________
Date
SESSION ENDORSEMENT

Please consider how your Session might support this person: Prayer, Mentor, Financial Support, Other Ways.

Name of Applicant ______________________________ Church Name ______________________________

1. How long has this person been a member of your congregation, and in what ways has she/he contributed to the ministry and mission of your congregation?

2. What gifts does this person possess that will foster growth in Christian leadership formation?

3. Are there any barriers that will keep this person from being able to fulfill this special calling?

4. Is there any additional information about this person that would be helpful for IPLF leaders to know?

5. Is your Session able to support this person in one or more of the ways mentioned in the box above? Please be as specific as possible.

__________________________  ____________________________
Signature of Moderator or Clerk of Session                              Date

PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Our presbytery committee has met with: ________________________________________________

We affirm this person’s sense of call and endorse his/her application to begin the program.

__________________________
Name of Presbytery

__________________________
Committee of Presbytery

__________________________  ____________________________
Signature of Chairperson of Committee                                     Date