

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS AS MODERATORS

Approved July 14, 2026

With the decline in the number of called and installed pastors in the presbytery, the Committee on Ministry has approved allowing Commissioned Ruling Elders to moderate session and congregational meetings, when there is a need.

According to the Book of Order, G-2.1002, and Manual Appendix 7, j, 2: Commissioned lay ministry: Presbytery [COM] may grant a commission to certain ruling elders with the authority to moderate session meetings upon the invitation of the presbytery-appointed moderator. Such individuals must be ruling elders of this presbytery. These Commissioned Ruling Elders shall have completed a seminary class on polity, the lay pastor class on moderating sessions, or have held a commission as a commissioned ruling elder. Their authority to moderate sessions shall only be valid within the geographic bounds of the presbytery, and the commission shall be limited to three years or less (renewable).

Compensation will be according to the **COMPENSATION IN THE PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON** policy found on the website.

CHILDCARE POLICY
Approved 7/14/2026

The CoPL will be responsible for reimbursing childcare during a presbytery meeting or other presbytery work for commissioners if requested. If the elder or minister prefers to hire their own childcare, and this is a hardship, the CoPL will consider reimbursement. Necessary funds will be budgeted from the per capita funds of presbytery.

CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT FUND

Approved 7/14/2026

As early as 1970, there was a *New Church Planting budget (undesignated monies)*, but was used for flood damage repairs and salary supplements. In 1980, it was called *New Church Development and Redevelopment (undesignated monies)* and used for salary supplements. Through the 1990's and 2000's they were *labelled temporarily restricted and designated for New Church Development and Redevelopment*. These are monies *designated by the presbytery* for church redevelopment, transformation, or for becoming a more missional church.

Disbursement of the funds by 2008 was at the discretion of the Discipleship Umbrella Team. At its April 3, 2008 meeting the Discipleship Umbrella Team adopted criteria for use of these funds. The subject did not come to the floor of presbytery.

The Committee on Presbytery Life moves that these two funds, which are designated by presbytery, the Church Redevelopment Fund and New Church Planting Fund, be redistributed, leaving \$50,000 in the New Church Planting Fund and moving the remaining monies to the Church Redevelopment Fund,

And that a working task group be directed to research the best ways/programs to help our churches navigate these difficult times and update the criteria for use of church redevelopment funds, including the establishment of guidelines for fiscal responsibility. CoPL be directed to research the best ways/programs to help our churches navigate these difficult times and update the *Criteria for use of Church Redevelopment Funds*, including establishing guidelines for fiscal responsibility