



After Seminary...

...CNP groups of 8-12 pastors convene periodically for 3-4 days, to study and pray together, to continue encouraging one another, and to hold one another accountable to their shared covenant.

...CNP meetings are convened by two mentoring pastors with a demonstrated record of faithfulness, fruitfulness, and fulfillment in pastoral work.

...CNP "companies" become close-knit groups of friends in ministry who together fan the flame of their common calling. Collegial and mentoring relationships begun here last a lifetime.



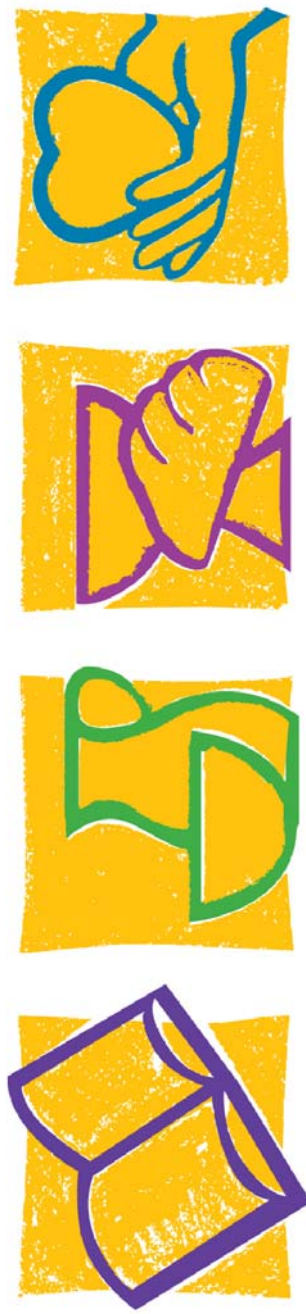
Shaping and encouraging
spiritual and intellectual practices
that sustain
FAITHFULNESS
FRUITFULNESS
FULFILLMENT
in pastoral ministry

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COMPANY OF NEW PASTORS

A Program of Vocational Formation and Nurture for Pastoral Candidates and New Pastors
Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
With Funding Assistance From Lilly Endowment Inc.

During Seminary...

...CNP groups are formed in the second year of seminary, and meet monthly for prayer, study, mutual encouragement and admonition, and table fellowship.

...CNP groups are recruited and convened by faculty mentors, who guide them through an intensive study of their upcoming ordination vows.



...CNP participants enroll in the Company of Pastors, a churchwide community of pastors who covenant together to practice daily disciplines that sustain good ministry.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Acts 2:42

Company of Pastors

CNP members enroll in a "Company" of several hundred PCUSA pastors who embrace a discipline of regular study and prayer, including specific daily Scriptural and Confessional readings. To learn more, go to www.pcusa.org/pastorselders.

Why a "Company of New Pastors?"

Good and faithful ministry requires pastors to be rich in spiritual vitality, theological depth, personal integrity, and social wisdom. Continued abundance of these storehouses is best sustained in community with ministerial colleagues, under guidance of wise mentors.

Like Jesus and the apostles, servants of the Gospel today need the encouragement of close vocational friends and mentors, in times of blessing and crisis alike. Pastoral isolation and loneliness are all too common, and the honest truth is that, amid ministry's myriad and daunting demands, many pastors neglect to nurture their own spiritual life.

Lifelong ministry-nurture habits are set during preparation for and first years of ministry. The *Company of New Pastors (CNP)* seeks to establish a set of practices during the critical years of preparation for and entrance into ministry that will nurture good and faithful ministry for a lifetime of ministry.

What are the main features of the CNP Covenant?

CNP members covenant to participate fully in monthly gatherings while they are seminarians, followed by a series of five post-graduation consultations over the subsequent four years.

They also covenant to maintain specific spiritual disciplines of daily prayer, Bible reading, daily readings from the *Book of Confessions*, and to read and reflect on assigned theological texts.

CNP meeting schedule...

- ◆ Student groups meet monthly for their last three semesters in seminary, led by faculty mentors in systematic study of their ordination vows.
- ◆ Students from all campuses gather in Louisville for a national consultation during the fall of their senior year.
- ◆ Pastor mentors convene regional groups at sponsoring seminaries for a brief consultation about six months after graduation.
- ◆ The same groups gather on seminary campuses for a series of annual four-day Spring consultations, over the next four years.



Companies of New Pastors — communities of pastors and candidates for ministry, who gather regularly with vocational mentors, engaging apostolic practices of daily prayer, disciplined study, mutual encouragement and admonition, and table fellowship.



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