



Presbyterian CREDO

The Board of Pensions administers the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering retirement, healthcare, death, and disability benefits to qualifying members. The Board also provides financial and vocational grants through the Assistance Program.

Summary

Unique conferences held in retreat-like settings, Presbyterian CREDO gives teaching elders the opportunity to examine key areas of their personal and professional lives: **spiritual, vocational, health, and financial**. Through prayerful reflection and discussions guided by faculty, CREDO participants often find greater clarity and purpose in their lives and ministries.

The Board of Pensions sponsors two types of CREDO conferences — one for mid-career teaching elders (CREDO I), the other for recently ordained teaching elders (CREDO-RO). As space is limited, invitations are sent to those eligible pastors serving congregations whose names are randomly selected from the Board's database. Participants pay a \$500 fee for each conference. The Board of Pensions covers all other costs, including airfare, lodging, meals, and other direct conference costs. Scholarships are available if the participant fee creates a financial hardship.

Presbyterian CREDO is modeled after Episcopal CREDO, which has run successfully for more than a decade. The Board of Pensions works in partnership with Episcopal CREDO to develop its conferences for Presbyterian teaching elders.

CREDO for mid-career teaching elders

Teaching elders between 30 and 55 years of age who are members of the Benefits Plan and have been ordained for at least five years may be invited to attend one of six CREDO I conferences held each year. Through a discernment and visioning process that is the hallmark of this seven-day conference, participants contemplate who they are and what they believe God may be calling them to become. During the conference, participants develop a personal CREDO plan, which helps to guide them when they return home and seek to implement the work of their minds and hearts in their ministries.

“CREDO helped me reclaim my call to ministry.”

— CREDO Participant

CREDO for the recently ordained

CREDO for recently ordained pastors is designed to support pastors of any age who are in their **second to fifth year of ministry and serving a congregation**. Requiring a two-conference commitment of seven days each, with a year between the first and second conferences, CREDO for the Recently Ordained provides an opportunity to embark on a two-year journey of discovery and self-care with the same participants and the same faculty team.

The themes of spiritual identity, wellness, and leadership will be considered in plenary presentations, small groups, and individual reflection, examined through the lens of the early years of ordained ministry.

Under the guidance of a faculty team and supported by a community of colleagues, each participant creates a personal plan that is intended to keep his or her life and ministry grounded in God's calling.