

Attention Ordained Ministers... All ordained ministers need to be logging their Continuing Education Units (CEU). As we move toward another 5-year Ordination Review in 2015, ordained ministers will be required to produce verification of CEU for this 5-year period. It's your responsibility to secure certificates, letters, or other documentation regarding CEU credit earned in the following focus areas:

1. **Biblical Studies** - The scriptures are foundational in every aspect of the church's life. The need for Biblical study does not end when one has graduated and been ordained. Research and archeological discoveries are constantly shedding new light on old truths, and a well-informed pastoral leader is a blessing to the people of God who gather regularly for worship, fellowship, and service.
2. **Spiritual Hardiness** - Spiritual hardiness involves the whole person: physical, emotional, and spiritual health. A leader, if he/she is to function well, needs to be healthy. Good health for a pastoral leader includes nurturing from the Scriptures, devotions, prayer life, and may well include working with a spiritual director. It also includes physical exercise, proper diet, adequate rest, and good stewardship of one's resources.
3. **Pastoral Leadership** - In order to avoid too much work in a single year, it would be wise for the pastor to plan to complete one CEU annually. Pastoral leadership is more than administration. Excellent leadership requires self-differentiation; the desire and ability to envision the future, to develop long-range and short-range plans, to lead while walking with the congregation; the willingness to ask for and receive feedback, and the willingness to bring lay members into a leadership team. In this postmodern age, many members of the laity who have no interest in being credentialed to the "set apart" ministry are interested in having significant "ministerial" involvements in the congregation. That involvement may take the form of care ministries, visitation in homes and hospitals, preaching, planning, grief ministries, and many others.
4. **Preaching and Worship** - Preaching and worship planning/leadership are among the most important aspects of a pastor's life. Preaching must be grounded in Scripture and relevant to today's issues; the preacher must believe and live what he/she proclaims and be passionate about wanting others to receive Christ into their lives. Worship must focus on the awesome presence of God and Christ in the life of the gathered community. The worship planner and leader needs to be very sensitive to the needs of the individuals and the "unchurched" community, seeking always to find new ways to proclaiming the good news.
5. **Evangelism and Church Growth** - Evangelism is not a program to be developed and "sold" to a reluctant congregation. It is a commitment to Christ and a deep desire to share the good news with others; therefore, evangelism and church growth are not separate things; they are one. A congregation will not grow unless it has an evangelistic fervor; an evangelistic fervor often leads to church growth.
6. **Pastoral Care** - Pastoral care is quite important. To use the Biblical image, the pastor is a shepherd who loves, knows and is committed to the parishioners. The good shepherd knows the unique identity of every sheep in the flock and will risk his own life for the sheep. So, pastoral care involves visiting the homes, hospitals and nursing homes; crisis counseling; celebrating high moments in people's lives; and weeping with those who weep. It is important to note that the pastor should not be the only one providing the caring; the pastor needs to assist in calling and equipping lay people as care givers.

7. Special Ministry Areas - Congregations are increasingly calling pastors to serve in specialized ministries. These include, but are not limited to, children's, youth, young adult, singles, older adult, small group, visitation, counseling and Christian education ministries. Those who serve in specialized ministry areas may include studies related to their specific ministry description is this focus.
8. General Enrichment - Professional growth should lead the pastor into at least one area that is not directly related to pastoral ministry. The opportunities are unlimited and could include things like health care, the arts, mechanical endeavors, development of skills in a sporting interest, a science project, etc.

This includes ALL ordained persons. While retired clergy are exempt from this requirement, it does apply to retired clergy who are actively involved in Interim Ministry or Pulpit Supply. (It is much easier to keep your chart updated as you receive your CEU certificates, so please mail copies to the District Office as you receive them.)

Licensed & Ordained Persons ... It is necessary for ALL licensed and ordained ministers to IMMEDIATELY notify the District Office if you change your home address, e-mail address, phone number, including your cell phone number, or if you change congregations. Please call 717-624-8626 with any changes. Your willingness to do this will keep your District staff from wasting valuable time and resources in mailings and e-mail communications. We thank you in advance!

Ordination Cards/Licensed Cards ... If you recently moved your membership to the SO PA District, you should contact the District Executive to receive a new Ordination Card. If your Ordination or Licensing has been surrendered for any reason, your Ordination/Licensed Card should be sent to the District Office. Licensed ministers would have received their Licensed Cards at the 2013 District Conference re-licensing service. If you have any questions, please call the District Executive for further clarification.