

APPENDIX

The Formularies of the Reformed Church in America

1. Declaration for Licensed Candidates

(This Declaration shall be made orally by the candidate in the presence of the classis. The candidate shall then sign a book containing the declaration.)

I, _____, in becoming a licensed candidate for the ministry in the Reformed Church in America sincerely and gladly declare before God and with you that I believe the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and as expressed in the Standards of the Reformed Church in America. I accept the Scriptures as the only rule of faith and life. I accept the Standards as historic and faithful witnesses to the Word of God.

I promise to walk in the Spirit of Christ, in love and fellowship within the church, seeking the things that make for unity, purity, and peace. I will submit myself to the counsel and admonition of the classis, always ready, with gentleness and reverence, to give an account of my understanding of the Christian faith. I will conduct the work of the church in an orderly way and according to the Liturgy and the *Book of Church Order*.

2. Attestation of a Licensed Candidate

To all whom it may concern: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Head of the church, we send greeting.

Be it known that _____, having presented to the Classis of _____ testimonials of literary and theological attainments from the professors of the theological seminary at _____, was admitted to an examination in the Hebrew and Greek languages, and in the various branches of theology, as prescribed in the Government of the Reformed Church in America; and that the classis being well satisfied with his/her gifts, piety, and qualifications to preach the gospel did resolve, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the church, that the said _____ be, and hereby is, allowed and authorized as a

candidate for the sacred ministry within its bounds, and wherever the providence of God may call him/her to preach the gospel of our blessed Lord and Savior. The said classis recommends him/her to the esteem and attention of all those to whom these presents may come as one well qualified to preach the crucified and risen Savior.

The classis fervently prays that the great Head of the church may further qualify him/her for the work of the ministry, and make him/her eminently useful in that part of his vineyard where he/she may be called.

Done in classis, in the _____,
on this _____ day of _____,
20_____.

_____, President
_____, Clerk

3. Declaration for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

(This Declaration shall be made orally by the candidate in the presence of the classis at the time of ordination or installation. The newly ordained or installed minister of Word and Sacrament shall then sign a book containing the declaration.)

I, _____, in becoming a minister of the Word of God in the Reformed Church in America, within the Classis of _____, sincerely and gladly declare before God and with you that I believe the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and as expressed in the Standards of the Reformed Church in America. I accept the Scriptures as the only rule of faith and life. I accept the Standards as historic and faithful witnesses to the Word of God.

I promise to walk in the Spirit of Christ, in love and fellowship within the church, seeking the things that make for unity, purity, and peace. I will submit myself to the counsel and admonition of the classis, always ready, with gentleness and reverence, to give an account of my understanding of the Christian faith. I will conduct the work of the church in an orderly way and according to the Liturgy and the *Book of Church Order*.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I pledge my life to preach and teach the good news of salvation in Christ, to build up and equip the church for mission in the world, to free the enslaved, to relieve the oppressed, to comfort the afflicted, and to walk humbly with God.

I ask God, and you His servants, to help me so to live until that glorious day when, with joy and gratitude, we stand before our great God and King.

4. Attestation of an Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament

To all whom it may concern: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Head of the church, we send greeting.

Be it known that _____ was admitted by the Classis of _____ to an examination in the various branches of theology, as prescribed in the Government of the Reformed Church in America, preparatory to ordination, and the classis, being well satisfied with his/her gifts, piety, and qualifications to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments, did resolve, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the church, that the said _____ be ordained to the gospel ministry. In conformity with that resolution the classis set him/her apart solemnly, on the _____ day of _____, 20____, to the work of the sacred ministry, according to the rites and forms of the Reformed Church in America, and received him/her into the ministerial fellowship. The said classis recommends him/her to the esteem and attention of all those to whom this document shall come, as one qualified to preach the gospel and to administer the sacraments of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The classis fervently prays that the great Head of the church may abundantly qualify him/her for the work of the ministry, and make him/her eminently useful wherever he/she may be called to labor.

Done in classis, in the _____,
on this _____ day of _____,
20_____.

President

Clerk

5. Call to a Minister of Word and Sacrament

To the Rev. _____, grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Whereas, the _____ Church of _____ is well satisfied with the piety, gifts, and ministerial qualifications of you, (N.N.), and has good hope that your labors as a minister of the gospel in this place will be attended with a blessing.

Therefore, we, (here insert the legal title of the church), hereby solemnly and in the fear of the Lord do call you, the said (N.N.), to be our pastor and teacher; to preach the Word of God in truth and faithfulness; to administer the holy sacraments agreeably to the institution of Christ; to edify the congregation, and especially the youth by catechetical instruction and by explaining the essential truths of the Holy Scriptures; to maintain Christian discipline; and to fulfill as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ the whole work of the gospel ministry in conformity with the Word of God and the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America, to which you, upon accepting this call, must, with us, remain subordinate.

It is further stipulated that in fulfilling the ordinary duties of your ministry, besides preaching on such texts of Scripture as you may deem proper to select for our instruction, you also explain the points of doctrine contained in the *Heidelberg Catechism*, and that you conform to the usual practice of our congregation in rendering all customary public service. The particular services required of you are: (here insert such particulars as the consistory may deem necessary).

We promise you in the name of this church all proper attention, love, and obedience in the Lord. We promise and oblige ourselves to encourage you in the discharge of the duties of your important office, and to free you from worldly avocation while you are dispensing spiritual blessings to us, to pay you the sum of \$_____ in _____ payments yearly and every year, and to consider annually whether such payments are adequate, as long as you continue to be the minister of the church, together with (here insert particulars which refer to a parsonage or residence, or other emoluments). We also promise to pay the stipulated contributions to the Reformed Church retirement plan and the premiums for group life insurance, long-term disability insurance, and medical insurance for the minister as offered by the Board of Benefits Services, and further, to provide this same medical insurance for your family except where the immediate

family* has medical coverage through a spouse's employer-sponsored group plan as long as you continue to be the minister of this church. In addition we promise to provide a minimum of one week and a stipend equal to not less than the equivalent of 1/52 of the minimum cash salary established by the classis for a study program mutually agreed upon by you and us for your professional development, for each year in service with our congregation. By mutual agreement this time and money may be accumulated to a maximum equivalent of four years of service. We hereby bind ourselves and our successors for the performance of all the foregoing by the underwritten signatures of the consistory members to this instrument.

May the Lord incline your heart to a cheerful acceptance of this call and send you to us in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace.

Done in consistory and subscribed with our names this _____ day of _____, 20_____.
Attested _____ by

Supervisor of the call

**"Immediate family" is understood to mean those dependents eligible for family medical insurance according to the insurance plan document of the Board of Benefits Services.*

6. Appointment of a General Synod Professor of Theology

To the Rev. _____:

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, reposing confidence in your piety, learning, and talents, has elected you a professor in their theological seminary at _____ and as a teacher of the church at large. The branch of theology in which you are to instruct the theological students committed to your charge is _____, with such modification as the General Synod may hereafter direct.

May the Head of the church make your labors useful and pleasant.

Signed by the order of the synod,
_____, President

Done in General Synod this _____ day of _____,
20_____.

7. Declaration for General Synod Professors of Theology

(This declaration shall be made in the presence of the Christian community at the time of installation. It shall be made orally by the person being installed. The newly installed professor shall sign a book containing the declaration.)

I, _____, in becoming a Professor of Theology of the Reformed Church in America, sincerely and gladly declare before God and with you that I believe the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and as expressed in the Standards of the Reformed Church in America. I accept the Scriptures as the only rule of faith and life. I accept the Standards as historic and faithful witnesses to the Word of God.

I promise to walk in the Spirit of Christ, in love and fellowship within the church, seeking the things that make for unity, purity, and peace. I will submit myself to the counsel and admonition of the General Synod, always ready, with gentleness and reverence, to give an account of my understanding of the Christian faith. I will conduct the work of the church in an orderly way and according to the Liturgy and the *Book of Church Order*.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I pledge my life to preach and teach the good news of salvation in Christ, to build up and equip the church for mission in the world, to free the enslaved, to relieve the oppressed, to comfort the afflicted, and to walk humbly with God.

I ask God, and you His servants, to help me so to live until that glorious day when, with joy and gratitude, we stand before our great God and King.

8. Application for the Dissolution of a Pastoral Relationship

To the Rev. _____, Classis of _____:

This certifies that the undersigned was present by request at a meeting of the consistory of the _____ Church of _____ on the _____ day of _____, and superintended the proceedings thereof. It was resolved at that meeting that an application be made to the Classis of _____ for a

dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. _____
and said church effective _____, 20____. The Rev.
_____ concurred in that application.

Minister of Classis

dated: _____, 20_____.

9. Certificate for the Transfer of a Minister of Word and Sacrament

To the Classis of _____:

This is to attest that the Rev. _____ is a member
in good and regular standing of the Classis of _____,
and is now requesting dismissal to the Classis of _____,
to whose Christian fellowship and care he/she is hereby affectionately
commended. When received by the Classis of _____,
the Rev. _____'s relation to this classis shall cease.

Last served as delegate to regional synod _____ (year)

Last served as delegate to General Synod _____ (year)

_____, Stated Clerk

Classis of _____

(date) _____

10. Certificate for the Transfer of a Church Member

This certifies that _____
is a confessing member of the _____ Church
of _____ in good and regular standing.
_____ was duly ordained to the office
of elder/deacon. As such _____
is at _____ own request transferred
to _____ Church of _____, to whose
Christian fellowship and confidence _____ is hereby
affectionately commended. When received by them, _____'s
relation to this church shall cease.

By order of the Board of Elders.

_____, President

Given at _____, _____, 20_____.

Note: This certificate is valid only for one year from its date, except when there has been no opportunity to present it.

11. Certificate for the Transfer of a Church to Another Denomination

The Classis of _____ of the Reformed Church in America hereby certifies that it has duly considered the petition of the _____ Church of _____ for leave to withdraw from the denomination and to affiliate with the _____; that it has duly ascertained the will of the members of that church, and that after prayerful consideration it has determined that it is in the best interests of Christ's kingdom that the petition be granted. It further certifies that the said church has satisfied its financial obligations to the denomination, pursuant to the Government of the Reformed Church in America.

Therefore, the Classis of _____ of the Reformed Church in America does hereby dismiss the aforementioned church from its jurisdiction, subject to the provisions of Part II, Article 7, Section 18 of the Government of the Reformed Church in America, and affectionately commends that church to the _____.

In witness whereof, this certificate has been duly signed by order of such classis this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

President

Stated Clerk

12. Charge

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

NAME OF THE ACCUSER _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP _____

NAME OF THE ACCUSED _____

NATURE OF ALLEGED OFFENSE

TIME, PLACE, CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGED OFFENSE

Date

Signature

13. Citation to an Accused Person or Consistory

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
CHARGES BY:

THE ACCUSER,

AGAINST

CITATION TO AN
ACCUSED PERSON*

THE ACCUSED.

TO THE ABOVE ACCUSED:

Pursuant to authorities granted to the undersigned by the *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 2—The Disciplinary and Judicial Procedures—Part I, Article 5, you are hereby summoned to appear before this judicatory and answer to the charge against you, a copy of which is presented herewith, at _____ o'clock in the ____ .m. of the _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____

President

Clerk of the Consistory
of _____
Church of _____

OR

of the Classis of _____

*where the accusation is against a consistory, the word "consistory" should be substituted for the word "person."

14. Citation to a Witness

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
CHARGES BY:

THE ACCUSER,

AGAINST

CITATION TO A
WITNESS

THE ACCUSED.

Pursuant to authorities granted to the undersigned by the *Book of Church Order*, Chapter 2—The Disciplinary and Judicial Procedures—Part I, Article 5, you are hereby summoned to appear before this judicatory and give such testimony as you may have in this case at _____ o'clock in the ____m. of the _____ day of _____, 20_____, at _____

President

Clerk of the Consistory

of _____

Church of _____

OR

of the Classis of _____

15. Provision for Articles of Incorporation for Congregations

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this [insert description of organizational document], this [corporation/organization] is a member church in the Reformed Church in America; is (and at all times shall be) subject to and governed by the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America; and agrees that the provisions of this [article/chapter/paragraph] shall not be amended or modified in any manner without the prior written consent of the classis of which this [corporation/organization] is a member.