DIRECTORY FOR RECEPTION INTO THE CLASSIS AND INSTALLATION INTO A SPECIALIZED MINISTRY

*The classis shall appoint a time for a service of worship during which praise and prayer shall be offered, the Word of God read and a sermon preached, after which the Order specified below shall take place.*

**PRAYER:** The presiding officer of classis or a person designated by the officer shall lead the congregation in a prayer asking for God’s blessing upon the assembly.

**EXPOSITION:** The presiding officer shall give a brief exposition of the divine call to ministry, using the text Ephesians 4:11-12 or another appropriate portion of Scripture.

**PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE:** The presiding officer shall call the candidate to stand before the congregation for the purpose of being received into the classis (if he/she is not already a member) and being installed into his/her office.

**INTERROGATION:** The presiding officer shall ask the candidate to reaffirm his/her ordination vows. After receiving a positive oral response, the presiding officer shall ask the candidate if he/she is willing to declare his/her faith publicly and make a renewed commitment to perform a Christian ministry as a member of the classis.

**READING AND SIGNING OF THE FORM OF DECLARATION:** The candidate shall reply to the presiding officer’s questions by reading the *Form of the Declaration for Ministers* and affixing his/her name to a book containing the declaration.

**WELCOME:** The presiding officer and such other officers or members of the classis as may be appointed shall welcome the candidate as a minister member of the classis with a greeting and the extending of the right hand of fellowship.

**STATEMENT OF THE NATURE OF THE MINISTRY:** A brief statement regarding the nature of the particular ministry and the duties pertaining to it which the minister may be called upon to perform may be read by the presiding officer, or by a person appointed to do so, after which the following affirmations shall be made.
ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFICE BY THE CANDIDATE: The president shall ask the minister if he/she is willing to affirm publicly his/her acceptance of the office. The minister shall make a brief reply using his/her own words.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CANDIDATE: If there are persons present who will be taking an active role in this ministry, the presiding officer shall ask them to stand to affirm their willingness to accept the minister God has given them and to participate in ministry with him/her as God may lead them.

If the ministry is under the direct supervision of the classis or its committee(s), or if the classis is acting on behalf of another assembly of the Reformed Church in America, its members shall stand with, or in place of, the group present and join in the affirmation.

CHARGES: Brief, scriptural charges may be made to the minister-elect and, if present, to those participating in the ministry.

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION: The presiding officer shall make a declaration using this form: “In the name and by the authority of the Classis of ______, I declare that the Reverend ______________________________ (using full name) is duly installed _______ (into the particular ministry).”

PRAYERS: A prayer for grace may be offered and the general prayers made, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer unless it has been used previously in the service.

BENEDICTION: The newly installed minister may pronounce the blessing concluding the service.

NOTE: Appropriate HYMNS may be sung during the Order, if desired. It is suggested that these be included before the Statement of the Nature of the Ministry and/or before the Benediction.