

EDUCATION AND CANDIDACY

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Response to Overture 13 (deferred from 2021): Honor Ordination of a Reformed Church in America Commissioned Pastor if Called to a CRC Congregation from Classis Arizona

A. *Materials:* Overture 13 (Deferred Agenda), pp. 488-89

B. *Recommendation*

1. That synod not accede to Overture 13.

Grounds:

- a. There is a lack of clarity in the overture about the exact change sought.
- b. Commissioned pastors are ordained as elders in the Reformed Church in America (RCA), not as a fourth office termed “commissioned pastors” as in the CRC.
- c. The commissioned pastor ordination is a local ordination and is not designed to be easily transferrable.

2. That synod instruct the Council of Delegates to review the implications of the church planting activities in Classis Arizona and recommend any needed Church Order changes to help church plants find expression in both denominations (RCA/CRC).

Grounds:

- a. Classis Arizona is doing excellent church planting work born from the Reformed Collaborative.
- b. While this matter arose out of a local context, there are denominational implications for our relationship with the RCA.