

Instructions for Document 9 in the Article 8 Affiliation Process

Statement of Psychological Fitness for Ministry

The Christian Reformed Church requires of all ministry candidates (Articles 6, 7, and 8) an interview by a certified psychological professional. The CMLT will consult with the Candidacy Committee to identify an appropriate professional in the region where the applicant lives. The payment for this interview will be negotiated between the applicant, the calling congregation, and the CMLT. A brief, confidential report from the certified professional will be provided to the CMLT and the Candidacy Committee for use in the evaluation process.

Guidance for Identifying and Discerning Appropriate Providers:

1. Providers and applicants should keep in mind that the goal of this process is not only to alert all to potential areas of concern that would prevent healthy ministry, but also to help each applicant to become self-aware as they continue in a life of ministry.
2. Each applicant for Article 8 (and Article 23) will represent a unique geographic, cultural, and economic setting. Our denominational process seeks to take these settings seriously while still expecting a standard relative to psychological evaluation.
3. Costs for psychological setting will vary from approximately \$200 to \$1200 per case. (although in some cases a classis or individual may be blessed with a provider who will donate their services). These costs should not be a burden to the applicant, and can hopefully be shared between the classis, the local church, and the applicant.
4. CTS's [psych assessment brochure](#) gives an overview of some of the types of follow-up activities that might be suggested or recommended by psychologists following assessments for Article 7, 8, 23 and 24 applicants (This document is borrowed with permission from Calvin Theological Seminary).
5. Any provider is encouraged to use at least two "assessment tools" in the process of interviewing and assessing the candidate, then a psychological report should be prepared. The following assessment tools are often used in the assessment of potential ministers:
 - **Minnesota Multi-phasic Personality Inventory (MMPI -II)**
A test designed to measure personality traits that may foster or hinder effective functioning.
 - **Rotter Incomplete Sentence- Adult Form**
This test assesses the person's perception of the world and seeks to identify positive and negative life adjustment patterns.

- **FIRO-B**
This questionnaire is designed to measure fundamental interpersonal relationship ability and orientation.
- **Personal History Form**
This is a questionnaire used to gather information about family, education, work, and health.
- **Millon Index of Personality Styles, Revised (MIPS)**
This is a test designed to measure personality styles in normal functioning adults, including their motivational styles, thinking styles, and behaving styles.

6. All providers should offer to the classis and the denominational candidacy a brief written report following their evaluation. The report will be treated with strict confidentiality and will be kept in a secure file.

Recommended Psych Providers (provide either online or in-person assessments):

Dr. Tony Merritt, LCSW – Campion Barrow

Fee: \$450

To set up appointment, contact Jen Crawley: jen@campionbarrow.com

Phone: 1-800-292-3399

Email: tmerritt@campionbarrow.com

Website: www.CampionBarrow.com

Dr. Timothy Zwart, Licensed Psychologist – Pine Rest, Grand Rapids, MI

Fee: \$1250

6500 Byron Center Ave SW, STE 300

Byron Center, MI 49315

To set up appointment, call 616-258-7524 or email ForensicServices@pinerest.org

Dr. Felipe Cortes, DMin, MA

Psychological evaluations in English and Spanish, in-person (NJ) or by encrypted end-to-end video call (other states)

Fee: \$600

To schedule psychological evaluation, contact Claudia Godoy

Mobile: (call or text): 973-870-8859

Email: pastoralcareministry@gmail.com

Sarah H. Ko, LMFT

Mine Psychotherapy & Wellness

Call: 310-853-0083

Email: minesarahko@gmail.com