**Guide for Process of CRC–RCA Pastor Exchange**

Prepared by the Candidacy Office, updated July 2020

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|  | **CRC Pastor Serves in RCA**  (See Church Order Supplement. Art. 8, D, “Orderly Exchange.”) | **CRC Pastor Transfers Ordination to RCA**  (See Church Order Art. 14-b.) | **RCA Pastor Serves in CRC**  (See Church Order Supplement, Art. 8, D, “Orderly Exchange.”) | **RCA Pastor Transfers Ordination to CRC**  (See Church Order Supplement, Art. 8, E.) |
| **What is happening?** | *\*CRC pastor remains a CRC pastor but called to serve in an RCA ministry.*  *\*CRC pastor needs a CRC council to which he/she is accountable while serving in RCA; the CRC pastor also is accountable to the RCA council/classis being served.* | *\*CRC pastor will no longer be a CRC pastor, instead becomes an RCA pastor.*  *\*As with any pastor changing denominational affiliation, the “reception rules” of the new denomination are up to that denomination.* | *\*RCA pastor remains an RCA pastor but serves in a CRC setting.*  *\*RCA pastor needs a continuing relationship with his/her RCA classis (credentials in the RCA are held at the classical level), and RCA pastor also becomes accountable to the CRC through the CRC council where he/she serves.* | *\*RCA pastor will no longer be an RCA pastor, instead becomes a CRC pastor.*  *\*The process for affiliation with the CRC is similar to the process for any already ordained pastor affiliating with the CRC.* |
| **Council Role** | \*CRC Pastor must have a designated CRC council that serves as the “sending body” and continues to function as the “CRC accountable body” (see Church Order Supplement, Art. 8, D, 7).  \*CRC ministerial credential remains with the current CRC council or may be transferred to a new CRC council for the duration of the RCA call. | \*CRC council receives from the pastor a “letter of resignation for the purpose of affiliating with a new denomination.” | \*CRC calling process results in extension of call to an RCA pastor. | \*CRC council consults with classis CMLT, and with the denominational Candidacy Committee, to receive direction and approval for the process. |
| **Classis Role** | \*CRC classis involved receives report from supervising CRC council.  \*No classis action required except that of receiving notice and recording call accepted. | \*CRC classis acts according  to the guidelines of Church Order Art. 14-b. | \*CRC classis receives report from CRC council and the appointed classis counselor that a call has been accepted by an RCA pastor.  \*No classis action required except that of receiving notice. | \*CMLT, with assistance from the Candidacy Committee, guides the process.  \*CRC classis eventually conducts a “colloquium doctum” as the final step in the process of affiliation into the CRC by a pastor from another denomination. |
| **Synodical Deputy Role** | \*No action required. | \*Concur with designation of “resigned CRC minister’s status” (see four categories in Church Order Supplement, Art. 14-b). | \*No action required. | \*Concur with classis in judgment regarding the applicant (see Church Order Supplement, Art. 8, E, 4). |