**Guide for Processing Pastors**

Prepared by the CRC Candidacy Office, updated Winter 2019

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|  | **“Releasing a Pastor”**  (See Art. 14  and 17.) | **“Loaning a Pastor” to Another Denomination**  (See Art. 13-c.) | **Calling to Chaplaincy or “Parachurch” Ministry**  (See Art. 12-b and -c,  and 13-a and -b.) | **Pastors Serving Emerging Churches**  (See Art. 38.) | **Pastors Serving an Affiliating Church**  (See Art. 8 and 38.) |
| **Council Role** | \*Must make a request to the classis.  \*A formal letter is normal. | \*A “calling CRC” offers to supervise pastor’s doctrine and life.  \*This calling church makes request to classis, usually with a description of the ministry where “loan” will occur. | \*A “calling CRC” offers to supervise pastor’s doctrine and life.  \*Prior to calling a chaplain, the calling church must work in cooperation with the agency or ministry involved.  \*This calling church makes request to classis, with a job description of the pastor and a description of the arrangements for supervising doctrine and life. | \*A neighboring council, designated by classis, oversees the work, extends any call, or requests any release.  \*Works with, mentors, and empowers a local “steering committee” in the emerging church. | \*A neighboring council, designated by classis, oversees the process.  \*Mentor church orients local leadership in CRC polity, perspective, and ministry. (See Art. 38-c.)  \*Pastor affiliates with CRC via the Art. 8 process. |
| **Classis Role** | \*Must make an appropriate response to the request.  \*If pastor is to be “released” from CRC, a specific declaration reflecting the status is made. Either  a) honorably released  b) released  c) dismissed  d) status of one deposed.  *Note:* Art. 14-b and Supplement 14-b, -c. | \*Determines that the “supervising relationship” with CRC calling church is appropriate.  \*Approves the loan and reviews the loan arrangement every two years. | \*Determines that the job description is ministerial in nature.  \*Determines that CRC Chaplaincy/Resonate has endorsed the position and person, if appropriate.  \*Determines that the “supervising relationship” with CRC calling church is appropriate.  *Note:* Job descriptions for Art. 12-b do *not* needsynodical deputy approval; descriptions for Art. 12-c and 13 *do* need synodical deputy approval. | \*Receives reports from the “supervising church” (“neighboring church”), as well as receives reports regarding any calls issued.  \*Acts on any request for release of pastor.  (See Column 1.) | \*Receives reports from the “supervising church” (“neighboring/mentoring church”).  \*Concurrent with the pastor affiliation through Art. 8, the classis moves to approve affiliation of the congregation. |
| **Synodical**  **Deputy Role** | \*Must concur with the decision of classis. | \*Concurs with the loan decision.  \*Also concurs with any extensions. | \*Concurs with the decision of classis re job description and supervision; assures CRC Chaplaincy/Resonate endorsement issues have been addressed. | \*Concurs with any decision regarding release of a pastor.  (See Column 1.) | \*Concurs with the judgment of the classis regarding the pastor, but not the congregation. |