

Reformed Church of America Form V

(To be completed by the a Classis of the General Synod of the Reformed Church of America)

PETITION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR EXAMINATION

The Classis of _____ hereby petitions the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America through its agent (check one) New Brunswick Seminary, Western Seminary, Evangelical Reformed College, or MFCA for a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry for the following candidate who was received under care on _____ (date).

First and Last Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/PC _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Church Membership (city and state/province) _____, _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Seminary selection of the applicant is to be guided by the following actions of the 1990 and 1998 General Synods.

To urge the classes to require that candidates who cannot attend an RCA seminary choose a seminary that provides the following essential components of an adequate theological education for RCA ministry:

1. Academic Accreditation. The non-RCA seminary must be accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (BCO, Chapter 1, Part II, Article 9, Section 2b).
2. Compatible Theology. The non-RCA seminary should provide instruction which is demonstrably compatible with Reformed theology as expressed in the three RCA doctrinal standards.
3. Denominational Identity. The non-RCA seminary selected should be located near RCA congregations which provide opportunities for regular participation leading to the creation and growth of RCA identity, loyalty, and collegiality.
4. Comprehensive Supervision. The non-RCA seminary should be able to provide diverse field-education assignments in RCA churches under the supervision of RCA ministers.
5. Ministerial Formation. The non-RCA seminary must have a high commitment to pastoral ministry.
6. Clinical Pastoral Education. The non-RCA seminary must make available within its curriculum at least one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and a program of spiritual direction.

7. Doctrinal Friendliness. The non-RCA seminary must be willing to recognize the RCA *Standards of Unity* as a valid statement of Christian faith for members of the RCA and no requirement that RCA students assent to additional doctrinal standards or statements.

Applicants are required to provide information regarding applications to other denominations and seminaries; especially if admission was denied. Signing this form binds the applicant to having released all such information: _____

If a non-RCA seminary is chosen, it is the responsibility of the classis and applicant to assure that the certification procedures as outlined in the *Candidate Handbook* will be fulfilled. It is required that an RCA mentor and Committee for Student Care and Supervision be available to the candidate.

Applicant's Education:

College _____ dates _____ degree _____

Seminary _____ dates _____ degree _____

Important: This completed form is to be forwarded to the MFCA or one of the seminaries listed below. If the petition is for a candidate enrolled in a non-RCA Seminary, college transcripts and a resume of work experience must accompany the form.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary
17 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Western Theological Seminary
101 East 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423-3622

Ministerial Formation Certification Agency
Reformed Church in America
8303 Alondra Blvd., Suite C
Paramount, CA 90723

Evangelical Reformed College
2365 St Clair Avenue, West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M6N 1K9

Important: These materials are to be received at least twenty-four months prior to the time the petition is to be given final disposition by the MFCA or seminary Board of Trustees.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of stated clerk _____ Date _____

Office Use Only

Date petition was received:

Date

Official Signature