

PETITION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR MINISTRY

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal code _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Church membership _____ city _____ 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 RCA doctrinal standards.
3. Denominational Identity. The non-RCA seminary selected should be located near RCA congregations that 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 the applicant chooses to attend New Brunswick Theological Seminary or Western Theological Seminary, the classis must send this form to that institution. The seminary will acknowledge receipt of the application.

If a non-RCA seminary is chosen, it is the responsibility of the classis and applicant to ensure 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.

I hereby give permission for full release of information to all relevant denominational officials (classis student care or other responsible committee, seminary admissions officer or M.Div. admissions committee, or other appropriate agents) regarding my application for endorsement and candidacy for the ministry of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America (RCA).

Signed _____ Date _____

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, official college transcripts and a résumé 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, RCA
8303 Alondra Blvd. Suite C
Paramount, CA 90723

Important: These materials are to be received at least 24 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 _____