

Calling a Pastor into the Holland Classis RCA

(A Partnership between Consistory and Classis)

The Holland Classis committees of Minister Support & Supervision (MSS) and Church Support & Supervision (CSS) are responsible for supervising the Classis participation in the Holland Classis. The Classis is a participant in the calling process. This paper is intended to clarify the ways in which the local church and the Holland Classis work together.

1. In the Reformed Church in America system, the Classis partners with the local church to extend a Call or Contract with a minister. A local church may not extend a call or a contract to a minister without the Classis participation and approval of the call. The Classis is the body that actually sends the Call form to the prospective pastor.
 - a. The consistory is expected to inform the Classis when a search process is being initiated.
 - b. The classis is not interested in just signing documents. We want to know the person who is being called and have that candidate know that real people are partnering with the call. We believe an “in-person” meeting offers integrity into the process. We expect that the classis will meet with the pastoral candidate before a Call or contract is issued.
2. When a pastoral vacancy is created because of the departure of a lead or solo pastor, the Classis will appoint a “Classis supervisor.” This is required in our church order.
 - a. When a search for an associate or assistant pastor is happening, the lead pastor is considered the Classis supervisor of the calling process.
 - b. It is the role of the supervisor to keep the Classis informed about the search process.
3. When the search process has identified a particular candidate (or candidates) and is scheduling the candidate(s) to visit the congregation and meet with the consistory, the Classis expects that time will be scheduled for the candidate to meet with the Classis committee as well.
 - a. The Classis Coordinator notifies members of the Church Support & Supervision Committee and the Minister Support & Supervision Committee of the arrangement to meet with the pastoral candidate. The persons from these committees, who are available, form the interview committee. Typically, the group meets at a neutral site, not at the church.
 - b. Most often, the interviews have been held on a Friday afternoon or a Monday morning.
 - c. This group approves the Call and instructs the President and Clerk to sign the Call form.

Since the incoming minister will become a member of Holland Classis, we believe that a process that brings the Classis visibly together with the candidate is the good way to begin the new relationship.