

Guide for Processing Pastors

Prepared by the CRC Candidacy Office, updated Summer 2019

	“Releasing a Pastor” (See Art. 14 and 17.)	“Loaning a Pastor” to a Non-CRC (See Art. 12-d.)	Calling to Noncongregational 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Must make a request to the classis. *A formal letter is normal. *In the case of Art. 17, develops a separation agreement to be approved by classis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A “calling CRC” offers to supervise pastor’s doctrine and life. *Prior to calling a pastor to noncongregational ministry, 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) honorably released b) released c) dismissed d) status of one deposed. <i>Note:</i> Art. 14-b and Supplement 14-b, -c. *Approve separation agreement as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Determines that the “supervising relationship” with CRC calling church is appropriate. *Approves the loan and reviews the loan arrangement every two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *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. <p><i>Note:</i> Job descriptions for Art. 12-b do <i>not</i> need synodical deputy approval; descriptions for Art. 12-c do need synodical deputy approval. Classis minutes should indicate which article is being utilized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *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.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Receives reports from the “supervising church” (“neighboring/mentorin g church”). *Concurrent with the pastor affiliation through Art. 8, the classis moves to approve affiliation of the congregation.
Synodical Deputy Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Must concur with the decision of classis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Concurs with the loan decision. *Also concurs with any extensions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Concurs with the decision of classis re job description and supervision; assures CRC Chaplaincy/Resonate endorsement issues have been addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Concurs with any decision regarding release of a pastor. (See Column 1.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Concurs with the judgment of the classis regarding the pastor, but not the congregation.

