

Mentor Guidelines

Pastoral Relations Committee

BACKGROUND: The first year of a new ministry holds many changes and demands and requires much learning and adjustment. A new home will be established and a new ministry engaged. Good-byes have been said, and lifestyle patterns and routines have been uprooted. Despite all that goes into a call, expectations can vary greatly. No two ministries, or congregations, or communities are the same. Zeeland Classis has historically appointed a mentor to walk alongside a newly installed pastor for the first year within this classis. Often those relationships have persisted for many years. The Pastoral Relations Committee seeks to provide help and encouragement to its new pastors in this way.

PURPOSE: The purpose of mentoring is to provide a helpful relationship to a newly installed pastor within classis, especially during the first year of a new ministry.

FREQUENCY & DURATION: These two pastors will meet together approximately 5-6 times during the newly installed pastor's first year. They are free to meet more often, and over a longer period of time, should both desire.

MEETING FORMAT: Face to face meetings offer the best possible opportunity for communication, sharing, and accountability. We suggest sharing a meal together. In addition, we encourage regular periodic phone contact.

EXPECTATIONS:

- To be genuinely concerned for the newly installed pastor, their family and their developing ministry.
- To both seek out, and be open to, a new pastor's needs and concerns.
- To provide a listening ear, sincere support, and a genuine opportunity to share.
- To pray for and with the pastor.
- To meet with the Pastoral Relations Committee S.E.A. TEAM at their meetings.
- To become involved to a greater degree if/when a need arises and such request is made.

Approved by: Zeeland Classis Pastoral Relations Committee, 1/6/2000

Approved by: Zeeland Classis, 3/21/2000