

Policy for Ordination/Installation Services

Pastoral Relations Committee

BACKGROUND: The BCO mandates the following,

The classis shall exercise a general superintendence over its enrolled ministers and over the interests and concerns of the churches within its bounds, and shall enforce the requirements of the Government of the Reformed Church in America.

The classis shall ordain, install, transfer, suspend, depose, declare demitted, declare inactive, and declare retired ministers.

Part II, Art. 2, Sec. 1,8.

PURPOSE: It is the role and responsibility of classis to exercise a "general superintendence" over the congregations within its bounds. This oversight includes the installation of a new ordained pastor into the life of a congregation. The installation service is conducted by classis in the life of an individual congregation within its jurisdiction. Therefore, an ordination / installation is both a classis and a congregational event. We want to be sensitive to each congregation, and to all pastors and congregations, as we hold such services. Because we seek to act wisely in the scheduling of these services, the Zeeland Classis has approved the following policy regarding ordinations / installations.

Mid-week is the official preferred time for services of ordination and installation. If/when a Sunday ordination / installation is desired, it is to be held during the evening worship service time and not on Sunday afternoons. It is expected that churches whose pastors are assigned as delegates shall arrange for pulpit supply for their evening service. The Stated Clerk (Classis Minister) shall inform the classis, based on the keeping of a rotating schedule, which pastors and elders will be required to be in attendance so that a necessary quorum can be attained. Those pastors assigned by classis shall obtain their own replacements should they be unable to attend, with a report given to the Stated Clerk (Classis Minister) prior to the service, so that the Clerk will know that a replacement has been secured, and who such replacement will be.

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

Approved by: Zeeland Classis, 10/19/99