

# Policy for Approval of Calls

## 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.*

*The classis shall approve and disapprove calls, and effect and dissolve the relationship between ministers and churches.*

Part II, Art. 2, Sec. 1,8,9.

**PURPOSE:** It is the role and responsibility of classis to exercise a "general superintendence" over the congregations within its bounds. Seeing as it is classis that installs a new ordained pastor into the life of a congregation, so also it is the prerogative of classis to approve or disapprove calls extended by an individual consistory of a congregation within its boundaries. The classis seeks at all times to work closely with and to respect the wishes of an individual congregation. At the same time, classis does bear responsibility for the direction and decisions of its congregations. Because we seek to act wisely and with one heart and mind in the calling of a new ordained pastor, the Zeeland Classis has approved the following policy regarding the approval of calls.

*Prior to approving a call, the Classis Clerk (Classis Minister) shall contact the Clerk of the classis of which the candidate is a member. The purpose of this call is to attempt to discern if there are any moral, character, historical or circumstantial issues or concerns of which Zeeland Classis should appropriately be made aware. In addition, the Pastoral Relations Committee will make up to two independent reference contacts. If at all possible, these calls will be made in the interim period between the consistory's recommendation and the church's congregational meeting.*

*It is this committee's intention to be ready to approve a call as soon as it has been extended. Should Pastoral Relations believe that there are circumstances present that may discourage the approval of a call, they will communicate such information promptly to/with the consistory of that church who is engaged in a pastoral search.*

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

Approved by: Zeeland Classis, 3/21/2000