

Christian Reformed Church in North America
Classis Credentials, With Addendum.

For ministers, elders, and deacons

To Classis Alberta North of the Christian Reformed Church

To convene **(date)** at **(name of church and location)**.

The council of _____ Christian Reformed Church of

_____ has appointed delegates to the meeting of the classis referred to above:

Pastor:

elder:

The alternate delegates are:

Pastor:

elder:

We instruct and authorize them to take part in all deliberations and transactions of classis regarding all matters legally coming before the assembly and transacted in agreement with the Word of God according to the conception of it embodied in the doctrinal standards of the Christian Reformed Church, as well as in harmony with our Church Order.

We testify that our council faithfully adheres to the doctrinal standards of the Christian Reformed Church and diligently and effectively attends to ministry within our congregation, community, classis, denomination, and the broader kingdom of God.

Questions Under Church Order Article 41

Church Order Article 41 calls classis to assist its member churches in the following way:

In order to assist the churches, the classis shall allocate sufficient time at its meetings to respond to requests for advice or help from the churches, and at a minimum of one meeting annually shall allocate sufficient time to discuss at least one ministry issue that the classis considers to be especially important.

1. In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of classis?

2. What aspect of ministry would you like to discuss at classis?

By order of the council,

_____, president

_____, clerk

_____ date

Items of Information and Requests for Advice or Help of Classis

Additional comments:

By order of the council,

_____, president

_____, clerk

_____ date

ADDENDUM TO CLASSICAL CREDENTIALS FORM
Adopted at the meeting of Classis, March 2008.

We would appreciate you providing the following additional information when using the form:

Re Question 1: "In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of classis?"

Assistance of classis can take a variety of forms. It would be very helpful if you would identify more specifically what kind of assistance you need or what classis can provide, such as:

- Do you wish a meeting with church visitors?
- Do you wish a meeting with one of our Regional Pastors?
- Do you think that your area regional pastor should arrange a meeting with your pastor at this time?
- Do you wish a meeting with the Regional Consultant?
- Do you wish to receive the immediate advice of delegates by way of a brief discussion on the issue you have identified?
- Do you wish an issue or matter to be reviewed by one of the committees of Classis?
- Do you wish to know if your issue should/could be discussed at this meeting or a subsequent meeting?

Re Question 2: "What aspect of ministry would you like to discuss at classis?"

To make any classis discussion as meaningful and efficient as possible, please consider:

- Have you clearly stated the issue you wish discussed?
- Are you convinced that the issue you bring forward is of interest or relevance to other churches in this classis?
- Are you able to provide some background information or explanation in the credentials form, or in a separate document that could accompany the credentials form?
- Can you identify some specific questions on the issue you wish discussed as opposed to a general statement that may not lead to good answers?
- Are you prepared to lead a discussion, or do you know of someone who would serve as a discussion facilitator?
- Do you wish this discussion to take place at the present classis meeting, or are you prepared to defer a discussion to a later classis meeting to permit preparation for a better discussion?

Process at the classis meeting:

1. The Credentials Advisory Committee will present to all delegates a list outlining the issues that have been identified on the credentials form and the churches that have submitted these matters.
2. Delegates of the submitting churches will each be given two minutes to explain or elaborate further on the issues they have submitted and what action they desire.
3. Delegates will then rank or prioritize the issues.
4. Delegates will return the list of prioritized issues to the Credentials Advisory Committee, who will then review and present their report and recommendations to classis as to further action to be taken. This could include, but not be limited to:
 - a. discussion on the floor of the present meeting of classis
 - b. referral to a subsequent classis meeting
 - c. referral to a standing committee of classis, to a study committee, to an ad hoc committee, or to a church.