

CLASSICAL CREDENTIALS – updated by Synod 2022

For ministers, elders, and deacons, and delegates from emerging churches

To Classis _____

To convene _____ at _____
(date) (place)

The council of _____ Christian Reformed Church of _____ has appointed
_____ (minister), _____ (elder), and _____ (deacon)

as delegates to the meeting of the classis referred to above. If a church is without a minister or the minister is unable to attend, an elder shall be delegated in place of the minister. The alternate delegates are _____ (minister), _____ (elder), and _____ (deacon). The council also delegates to the meeting _____ (campus minister).¹

In addition, the following officebearers from the emerging church, _____ are delegated²:

_____, _____, and _____.

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.

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.

Safe Church

"Does your church have (a) an up-to-date safe church policy; (b) a safe church committee to oversee policy directives; (c) a process for training and screening staff and volunteers in keeping with your policy?"

Response: _____

Questions Under Church Order Article 41 [please reply on back of Credentials]

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?

Elder and Deacon Nominees as Delegates to Synod [Applies to March Classis meeting; please reply on back of Credentials]

Elder Nominees plus Background Info:

Deacons Nominees plus Background Info:

By Order of the council.

_____, president

_____, clerk

_____, date

¹ Synod 2022 decided that councils may delegate campus ministers, who are ordained officebearers under their care, to the meetings of classis (cf. Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a, section d).

² Synod 2007 decided that a classis—a gathering of organized churches—may amend its own rules and invite emerging churches to delegate three officebearers *with vote* to the meetings of classis (cf. Church Order Supplement, Article 40-a, section c).