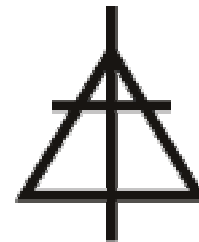


**Welcome, Welkom,  
歡迎 , Talofa, 환영, Mabuhay  
Chào Mừng, Selamat Datang  
Bienvenido, Khush-Am-Dade**

**Exploring Membership  
in the  
Christian Reformed Church  
Classis Greater Los Angeles**  
2007 SMCC edition



Multi-cultural congregations  
exalting Christ, inviting the Spirit,  
enlarging the Kingdom, embracing diversity.

# Exploring Membership

in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC)  
Classis Greater Los Angeles (GLA)

*Welcome to the CRC!*

The process described below is intended to help us get to know each other and to discern if God is calling us to serve him together in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). We are excited about the prospect of being enriched by your unique gifts, and about the mission God has given us as a church. We in Classis GLA are eager to welcome you and to help you find your way through our denominational affiliation process. Henry Lengkeek (562-866-1812), Sid Sybenga (626-755-6288) and the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT) will be glad to guide you as you take the steps described in these pages.

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# CHAPTER I

## Is the CRC for *You*?

### A. What the CRC Offers

1. A rich Biblical and theological tradition capable of equipping believers and churches to serve God in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
2. A proven Biblical structure for organizing individual congregations.
3. A strong regional ministry partnership with other CRCs (Classis GLA) which provides:
  - a. mentoring for pastors in their first 3 years of CRC ministry
  - b. on-going collegial relationships with other CRC pastors in the area, facilitated by the Peer Relations Developer
  - c. health and pension plans for pastors and guidelines for dealing with pastors and their financial support
  - d. partial funding for church planters, seminary tuition, and leadership training
  - e. an interracial summer camp for middle school youth, and a leadership development camp for senior high youth
  - f. partial financial support for emerging churches and loans for capital projects
4. A strong bi-national ministry partnership with other CRCs which provides:
  - a. effective, low-overhead global ministry in missions and poverty alleviation
  - b. educational/group resources for all ages
  - c. partial funding for church planters
  - d. priority access to exceptional institutions of higher learning
  - e. youth ministry resources and mission trip opportunities
5. A mission-minded organization with a commitment to multi-cultural ministry and racial reconciliation.

## **B. CRC Membership Commitments**

1. Embrace and teach this rich biblical and theological tradition
2. Use the congregational governing structure as described in the CRC church order.
3. Participate in Classis GLA by:
  - a. meeting with a mentor for the first 3 years of CRC ministry
  - b. developing on-going collegial relationships with other CRC pastors in the area through the LEAD teams
  - c. attending all meetings of Classis GLA
  - d. serving or providing a member to serve on a classis ministry teams
  - e. (if a church plant) submitting quarterly reports to parent church, Home Missions, and the New Church Development Team of Classis until established
  - f. financial support of Classis GLA through classical ministry shares.
4. Participate in the national ministry partnership with other CRCs by:
  - a. (if a church plant) submitting quarterly reports to parent church, Home Missions, and the New Church Development Team of Classis until established
  - b. (if an established church) submitting a brief yearly statistical report to the denominational ministry center
  - c. financial support of CRC ministries through Denominational Ministry Shares.
5. Contribute to multi-cultural ministry and racial reconciliation through participation in ministry



**CHAPTER II**

**Guidelines  
for Ordaining  
Ministry Leaders  
in Classis GLA**

(Ministers of the Word and Ministry Associates  
entering through Articles 7, 8, & 23  
of the CRC Church Order.)

**A 1. Paper Work to Complete  
Application for Article 7**

Ordination through article 7 of the Church Order is for those persons who have not received the prescribed theological training but who give evidence they are gifted and may by exception be declared candidates for the ministry of the Word. Prospective candidates must have been CRC members for 3 years and need to apply to the SMCC and submit the documents listed below to Henry Lengkeek, our Classical Ministerial Leadership Team coordinator and complete the candidacy process.

- Council Recommendation Form (SMCC stage 1)
- Candidates Application to Council Form (SMCC stg 1)
- Autobiography and Personal Faith Statement (SMCC stg 1)
- Certificate of health from a medical doctor (SMCC stg 1)
- Application for licensure (SMCC stg 1)
- Evaluated psychological health report (SMCC stg 1)
- Learning Covenant and Financial Plan (SMCC stg 1)
- Criminal background check & disclosure of discipline
- Classis Ministerial Leadership Team Recommendation
- Classis Recommendation Form (SMCC stg 1)
- Completion of Ecclesiastical Program for Ministry Candidacy (SMCC stg 2)
- Complete the Ministry Readiness Profile (SMCC stg 2)
- SMCC permission to have a classical examination.
- Classical Examination

All SMCC forms can be downloaded from the Toolkit page of the SMCC web site. (<http://www.crcna.org/pages/smcc.cfm>)

Please submit all documents listed above to  
Rev. Henry Lengkeek P.O. Box 625  
Bellflower CA 90707 phone 562-866-1812

## **A 2. Paper Work to Complete Application for Article 8**

Becoming a CRC pastor through article 8 of the Church Order is for those persons who are theologically trained and ordained ministers in other denominations. They can be declared eligible for a call in the CRC after applying to the SMCC and submitting the documents listed below to Henry Lengkeek, our Classical Ministerial Leadership Team coordinator, and going through a 1-2 years process of affiliation.

- Written references from previous council and Classis
- Autobiography and Personal Faith Statement (SMCC stg 1)
- Certificate of health from a medical doctor (SMCC stg 1)
- Application for licensure (SMCC stg 1)
- Evaluated psychological health report (SMCC stg 1)
- Learning Covenant and Financial Plan (SMCC stg 1)
- Certificate of Ordination
- Transcripts of high school and above and degrees
- Criminal background check & disclosure of discipline
- Classis Ministerial Leadership Team Recommendation
- Classis Recommendation Form (SMCC stg 1)
- Completion of Ecclesiastical Program for Ministry Candidacy (SMCC stg 2)
- Completed Ministry Readiness Profile (SMCC stg 2)
- Completed six-month stated supply (SMCC stg 2)
- SMCC permission to have a classical examination.
- Classical Examination

All SMCC forms can be downloaded from the Toolkit page of the SMCC web site. (<http://www.crcna.org/pages/smcc.cfm>)

Please submit all documents listed above to  
Rev. Henry Lengkeek P.O. Box 625  
Bellflower CA 90707 phone 562-866-1812

### **A 3. Paper Work to Complete Application for Article 23**

Ordination as Ministry Associates through article 23 of the Church Order is for persons not aspiring to Minister of the Word, but want to be church planters or church staff along side a Minister of the Word. They can be declared eligible for a call in the CRC after applying to the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (using SMCC forms) and submitting the documents listed below to Henry Lengkeek, our Classical Ministerial Leadership Team coordinator, and going through 1-2 years process of affiliation.

- Candidates Application to Council Form (SMCC)
- Council Recommendation Form (SMCC) with letter of appointment
- Candidates letter of acceptance
- Autobiography and Personal Faith Statement (SMCC)
- Certificate of health from a medical doctor (SMCC)
- Copy of seminary degree or certificate of specialized training in area of ministry
- Transcripts of high school and above and degrees
- Council Approved Ministry description
- Application for licensure (SMCC)
- Evaluated psychological health report (SMCC)
- Learning Covenant and Financial Plan (SMCC)
- Criminal background check & disclosure of discipline
- Classis Ministerial Leadership Team Recommendation
- Classis Recommendation Form (SMCC)
- Letter of recommendation from mentor (re: doctrine)
- Complete the Ministry Readiness Profile (SMCC)
- Classis permission to have a classical examination.
- Classical Examination

Please submit all documents (SMCC forms) listed above to  
Rev. Henry Lengkeek P.O. Box 625  
Bellflower CA 90707 phone 562-866-1812

## **B1. Application Initiated**

For article 7 and 23 candidates

The journey toward CRC ordination is fully described on the SMCC web site <http://www.crcna.org/pages/smcc.cfm> under “journey of ministry preparation article 6, 7, or 8.” Listed below are the main steps

(7's are processed through SMCC; 23's through the CMLT)

1. Indicate desire to become a Christian Reformed pastor to the SMCC.
2. Fill out SMCC forms for council support.
  - a. Candidates Application to Council Form
  - b. Council Recommendation Form
  - c. Autobiography and Personal Statement of Faith
3. Interviewed by the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team/ NCDT and develop documents for SMCC
  - a. Draft Learning Covenant and Financial Plan
  - b. Acquire CMLT Recommendation
  - c. CMLT provides a mentor or mentoring group.
4. Send paper work to SMCC and get their approval to proceed.
  - a. Background Check and Discipline Disclosure
  - b. Health Certificate and Psychological Report

## **C1. Preparation**

1. The CMLT/ NCDT assists candidate in preparing their Ministry Readiness Profile and oversees the completion of the learning covenant commitments.
2. Candidate gets licensure to exhort from SMCC
3. Classis GLA at the meeting where a written notice of the candidate's acceptance into the SMCC program is reported will approve the following:
  - a. The applicant will be formally introduced to Classis GLA.
  - b. Classis will recognize the candidate's ministry and acknowledge their license to exhort.
  - c. Classis will formally approve the mentor or mentor group.
  - d. Classis GLA will welcome this applicant to participate in the life of Classis GLA with a “voice vote” as a delegate for his/her calling church on matters pertaining to Classis and encourage the candidate to participate in the LEAD teams of Classis pastors.

4. Mentored training will be carried out in order to inform the candidate of CRC doctrine and practice and to help him/her prepare for the written and oral classical exams (outline of content below). The method will be spelled out in the Learning Contract approved by the SMCC. In addition, we encourage the candidate and mentor to consider worshipping with 3 GLA churches of other ethnic backgrounds, preaching and leading worship in some neighboring congregations.
5. “Need” will be established when the candidate has received permission from the SMCC or the CMLT to proceed with a classical examination. This will be when the Ministry Readiness Profile is completed and the Learning contract is fulfilled.
6. Both the calling church and the applicant must participate fully in Classis GLA meetings. Non-participation by either the calling church or the applicant, without the approval of Classis, may suspend the process.
7. At the meeting of Classis where “need” is to be declared the calling church must submit in writing to Classis GLA
  - a. a report on the relationship between the congregation and the candidate, including a testimony of the applicant’s purity of doctrine and sanctify of life.
  - b. The calling church and the incoming church (if there is one) must give a report on the viability of the ministry and indicate their ability to financially support the pastor they intend to call. For incoming congregations this report should include the items listed under B. 1. a-g on page 14 of this booklet.
  - c. For those desiring to enter the CRC as “ministry associates”, a written “ministry position description” must be provided, and will be approved by Classis, with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.
8. The classical examination shall include writing and delivering a sermon on an assigned text, a proctored written exam, and an oral doctrinal conversation. The mentor will review the written exam and the sermon evaluations with another minister in Classis.
  - a. If, based on the written exam, they think a longer training time would be helpful, mentoring in preparation for the classical examination will continue.

- b. If, they think the written exam satisfactory and the sermon acceptable, the recommendation to proceed is given to the NCDT/CMLT. The CMLT/NCDT will then give notice to the Classical Leadership team and ask them to schedule a Doctrinal Conversation or oral examination at the next Classical meeting.
9. After sustaining the classical examination the candidate is declared eligible for a call in the CRC. He/ she will accept the call of the congregation and be ordained in a public worship service.
10. After ordination the candidate with congregational approval has 90 days to join the CRC benefit plans.
11. Upon ordination the minister will participate in the life of Classis GLA and continue the mentoring process by joining a LEAD team.

## **B2. Application Initiated**

### For article 8 candidates

The journey toward CRC ordination is fully described on the SMCC web site <http://www.crcna.org/pages/smcc.cfm> under “journey of ministry preparation article 6, 7, or 8.” Listed below are the main steps

1. The candidates indicate their desire to become a Christian Reformed pastor to the SMCC.
2. The candidates provide the CMLT with references from the council and classis of their former denomination using SMCC forms.
3. Interviewed by the Classical Ministerial Leadership Team/ NCDT and develop documents for SMCC
  - a. Draft Learning Covenant which includes plans for Ecclesiastical Program for Ministry Candidacy and provisions for a six month stated supply assignment.
  - b. Financial Plan
  - c. Acquire CMLT Recommendation
  - d. CMLT provides a mentor or mentoring group.
4. Send paper work to SMCC and get their approval to proceed.
  - a. Autobiography and Personal Statement of Faith
  - b. Health Certificate and Psychological Report
  - c. Background Check and Discipline Disclosure
  - d. Copy of credentials and academic degrees

## **C2. Preparation**

1. After obtaining SMCC endorsement the CMLT will inform Classis GLA in writing that the candidate is in the SMCC program and the Classis will approve the following:
  - a. The applicant will be formally introduced to Classis GLA.
  - b. Classis will recognize the ordination of the candidate.

- c. Classis will formally approve the mentor or mentor group.
  - d. Classis will approve the candidate's stated supply position and acknowledge his/her licensure to exhort
  - e. Classis GLA will welcome this candidate to participate in the life of Classis GLA with a "voice vote" as a delegate for his/her calling church on matters pertaining to Classis and encourage the candidate to participate in a Classical LEAD team.
2. Mentored training will be carried out in order to inform the candidate of CRC doctrine and practice and to help him/her prepare for the written and oral classical exams (outline of content below). The method will be spelled out in the Learning Contract approved by the SMCC. In addition, we encourage the candidate and mentor to consider worshipping with 3 GLA churches of other ethnic backgrounds, preaching and leading worship in some neighboring congregations
  3. The stated supply council must provide the SMCC with an endorsement of the candidates ministry before granting permission to proceed with a Classical conversation.
  4. "Need" will be established when the candidate has received permission from the SMCC to proceed with a classical examination. This will be when the Ministry Readiness Profile is completed and the Learning contract is fulfilled.
  5. Both the calling church and the applicant must participate fully in the Classis GLA meetings. Non-participation by either the calling church or the applicant, without the approval of Classis, may suspend the process.
  6. At the meeting of Classis where "need" is to be declared the calling church must submit in writing to Classis GLA
    - a. a report on the relationship between the congregation and the candidate, including a testimony of the applicant's purity of doctrine and sanctify of life.
    - b. The calling church and the incoming church (if this is the case) must give a report on the viability of the ministry and indicate their ability to financially support the pastor they intend to call. This report should include the items listed under B. 1. a-g on page 14 of this booklet.

7. The classical examination shall include a proctored written exam and an oral doctrinal conversation. The mentor will review the written exam with another minister in Classis.
  - c. If, based on the written exam, they think a longer training time would be helpful, mentoring in preparation for the classical examination will continue.
  - d. If, they think the written exam satisfactory the recommendation to proceed is given to the NCDT/CMLT. The CMLT/NCDT will then give notice to the Classical Leadership team and ask them to schedule a Doctrinal Conversation at the next Classical meeting.
8. CMLT/NCDT will provide the required documents to the SMCC at the appropriate time and provide the Synodical Deputies with their materials one month before the declaration of need. They will also provide the classical examiners guidance and materials three weeks before the doctrinal conversation or oral examination.
9. At the classical meeting at which the doctrinal conversation is scheduled the candidate will share the testimonial from the previous denomination or church and the stated supply endorsement.
10. A doctrinal conversation or oral examination will be held with the candidate to
  - a. Demonstrate knowledge of CRC practice
  - b. Test doctrinal and biblical competency
  - c. Be assured of the person's ability to reflect theologically.

## **D2. Admission Process**

1. After sustaining the classical examination the candidate is declared eligible for a call in the CRC. He/ she will accept the call of the congregation and is ordained in a public worship service.

2. After ordination the candidate, with congregational approval and support, has 90 days to join the CRC benefit plans.
3. Upon ordination the minister will participate in the life of Classis GLA and continue the mentoring process by joining a LEAD team.

## **E. Topics Covered by Examinations**

### **a. An Outline of Subjects**

#### ***1. Soundness of Doctrine***

- i. Doctrine of Revelation in Creation & Scripture
- ii. God, Creation, and Providence
- iii. Humanity (original sin, misery, covenant of grace)
- iv. Jesus Christ (person, work, death, resurrection, & reign)
- v. Salvation and the Holy Spirit
- vi. Church, Sacraments, Kingdom, work, & government
- vii. Last Things (the millennium, return of Christ, consummation)
- viii. Ecumenical Creeds and Doctrinal Standards of the Christian Reformed Church

#### ***2. Reformed Practice and Usage***

##### **a) CRC Church History**

- i. Origins and major events in the CRC
- ii. The three major streams of thought
  - 1.--the Doctrinalists
  - 2.--the Transformationalists
  - 3.--the Pietists
- iii. The church's current position on such matters as women in ministry, homosexuality, and Pentecostalism.

##### **b) CRC Church Polity**

- i. Theological basis
- ii. A comparison between Reformed and polity the minister knows best
- iii. Limited tenure & equality of the offices
- iv. The assemblies of the church
- v. The structure of the denomination
- vi. Basis and significance of discipline

## **F. Suggested Reading List**

## for the learning Covenant

*\* Note: if material is not available in the needed language, the mentor will submit an equivalent to NCDT for approval.*

### **1. Soundness of Doctrine**

a) required reading (packet provided)

- i. Ecumenical Creeds**
- ii. Speaking as One**
- iii. Speaking of Comfort**
- iv. Reformed: What it Means Why it Matters**
- v. What is Means to be Reformed**
- vi. FAITH Unfolded**
- vii. CRC web site article on baptism**
- viii. Grace Through Every generation**

b) supplemental readings: (available from *Faith Alive*)

- i. A Sure Thing & A Place to Stand, C. Plantinga*
- ii. Manual of Christian Doctrine, chs 1-22, L. Berkhof Our World Belongs to God*
- iii. Perspectives on the CRC, Peter De Klerk*

### **2. Christian Reformed Practice and Usage**

a) required reading or viewing (packet provided)

- i. CRC Church Order**
- ii. We the Church**
- iii. That They May Know (DVD)**
- iv. Family Trees (DVD)**
- v. CRC Race Relations (video)**

b) supplemental readings: (available from *Faith Alive*)

- i. Current issue of The Banner*
- ii. Faith Alive Catalogue*
- iii. Manual of Christian Doctrine, chs 23-27*
- iv. Family Album*
- v. Flourishing in the Land*

## **G. Mentoring**

1. Classis GLA staff (Elmer Tandayu – New Church Developer; Mirtha Villafane – Hispanic Ministry Developer; Sid Sybenga – Peer Relations Developer) will:
  - a. Provide a mentor or mentor group for the pastor’s first 3 years of CRC ministry. The mentor will meet with the new pastor at least quarterly.
  - b. Provide three meetings per year with Classis staff for consultation and encouragement.
  - c. Provide mentoring opportunities as described below. NOTE: it is highly preferable for mentoring to happen in conjunction with participating in a LEAD team of other CRC pastors with a mentor/leader.
  - d. Mentoring Credits Available
    - 1). Peer Learning Group Participation ..... 3 credits
    - 2). LEAD team Participation..... 3 credits
    - 3). New Church Incubator Program ..... 3 credits
    - 4). Classis Sponsored Workshops .....1 credit
    - 5). CRC discovery trip to Grand Rapids ..2 credits
    - 6). Biannual Regional Leaders Retreat .....1 credit
    - 7). Calvin Seminary one week course ..... 2 credits
  
2. Pastor’s commitment:
  - a. Be mentored for the first three years of CRC ministry as described above, preferably in conjunction with participating in a LEAD team with other CRC pastors.
  - b. Acquire three (3) mentoring credits per year by attending Classis sponsored training events or workshops. The CRC discovery trip to Grand Rapids must be organized through the LDT and should involve a group of pastors.
  - c. Meet three times per year with Classis staff for consultation and encouragement.

## **CHAPTER III**

# **Guidelines for Congregations Desiring to Affiliate with the Christian Reformed Church**

### **A. Application**

1. The pastor/s and two lay leaders of the congregation desiring to enter ministry in the CRC will meet with the New Church Development Team (NCDT) to review the

affiliation process describe in part IV of this booklet  
*“Your Church & Classis GLA: The Partnership.”* (22-25)

2. If interested the pastor/s and leaders should review these understandings with their church council (or comparable governing body), which should present in writing to the NCDT a desire to explore relations with the CRC.
3. If interest remains from both pastor and church, the NCDT will assist this church in its formal request to affiliate with the Christian Reformed Church.

## **B. Preparation**

1. As part of this process the church will submit to the NCDT in writing information regarding the church:
  - a. The length of time the church has been in existence.
  - b. A brief history of the congregation along with information about its previous denominational affiliation.
  - c. Statistics regarding number of families, professing members, baptized but not professing members.
  - d. Affirmation that leaders understand the Ministry Share program and agree to participate in the classical and denominational ministries.
  - e. Information regarding leadership and potential leadership in the congregation.
  - f. Ministry plan and ministries in which it is engaged.
  - g. Financial profile and growth projections for the future,
2. NCDT will further explore the church’s desire to become CRC by having two people designated by them visit the church’s council or leadership team to review the following (agenda should be sent to the church before the meeting):
  - a. The reasons why the congregation desires to become part of the Christian Reformed Denomination.
  - b. A statement of its salary arrangements for its pastor.

- c. Their agreement with the commitments outlined in *“Your Church & Classis GLA: The Partnership,”* (pp 22 - 25 below —available also in handout form)
  - d. When and how the decision to affiliate with the CRC will be approved by the congregation.
3. The next steps will not be taken until the NCDT has:
- a. Received in writing from the church council:
    - 1). affirmation of its desire to affiliate with the CRC
    - 2). copy of minutes when the congregation has approved affiliation with the CRC
  - b. endorsed the request
  - c. recommended the level at which the congregation is to be received.
 

Acceptance may be in one of two categories:

    - i) Emerging (with steering committee) 1- 49 adults.
    - ii) Established (with council) 50 or more adults, either with installation of first office bearers or with transfer of present office bearers.

(If the church is received as an emerging church the New Church Development Team shall recommend to Classis, after consultation with all concerned, a consistory to act as the calling church for the pastor and supervising council for the church.)
  - d. received a recommendation from any neighboring Christian Reformed church whose ministry could be affected by this church
  - e. received a recommendation from the Regional Home Missions director.
4. NCDT will present this application by the church together with that of the pastor to Classis.

## **C. Admission**

- 1. At the time of the doctrinal conversation or oral examination of the pastor the NCDT will report the following to Classis:

- a. The continued desire of the church to join the Christian Reformed Denomination.
  - b. An update on its résumé noting any changes.
  - c. In the case of an emerging or established but not calling church the recommendation of the NCDT for a calling church to continue supervising the church to maturity.
  - d. In the case of an established church the recommendation of the NCDT for a supervising church that will arrange for a service to celebrate their reception into the Christian Reformed Church in a public gathering in which the first office-bearers shall be installed. If this is also to be an organizational service the congregation will celebrate their oneness with the Christian Reformed Church.
2. At the time of the installation or reception service the congregation and the pastor will orally and in writing agree to and sign a covenant agreement highlighting the commitments made in this brochure.
  3. If applicable the congregation will send a letter of formal withdrawal from their previous church affiliation.

## **D. Follow up**

For the first 3 years that the church is CRC two (2) people designated by the Classical Leadership Team will meet annually with the church Council to discuss how Classis GLA and the pastor and church are doing in this ministry partnership so that blessings can be celebrated and

challenges addressed. This will include going through a simple checklist of the promises described above. The Classis GLA representatives will report on this meeting to the Classical Leadership Team, and through it to Classis as a whole.

## CHAPTER IV

### Your Church & Classis GLA: The Partnership

Before getting married, a couple does well to get specific about how they will handle key practical matters. Clarity up front reduces frustration due to differing expectations. Such key areas among Classis GLA churches are mentoring, money, and ministry participation. Our goal is a vital, satisfying partnership.

*Note: What follows below is addressed to a church council. It is the responsibility of the council to inform the congregation of its actions toward partnership with the CRC in whatever way it considers best.*

#### I. PROMISES

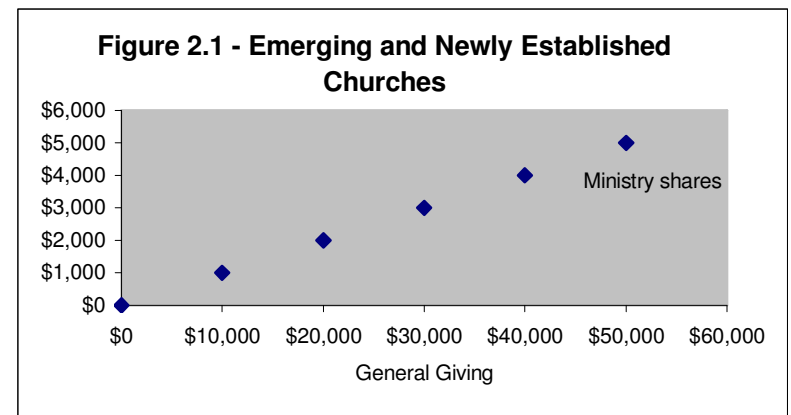
##### A. Mentoring

1. Classis GLA commitment:
  - a. Provide a mentor or mentoring group for the pastors' first 3 years of CRC ministry who will meet with them at least quarterly; and provide a minimum of four Classis ministry training events in each of the three years
  - b. Provide a minimum of three ministry/mentoring training events per year.
  - c. Provide 3 meetings per year with Classis staff for consultation and encouragement
2. Church's commitment:
  - a. Direct its pastor to participate in mentoring for his/her first 3 years of CRC ministry as described above, preferably in conjunction with and participating in a LEAD team with other CRC pastors.
  - b. Attend three credits of ministry training events sponsored by the Classis.
  - c. Direct its pastor to meet 3 times per year with the Classis staff for consultation and encouragement.

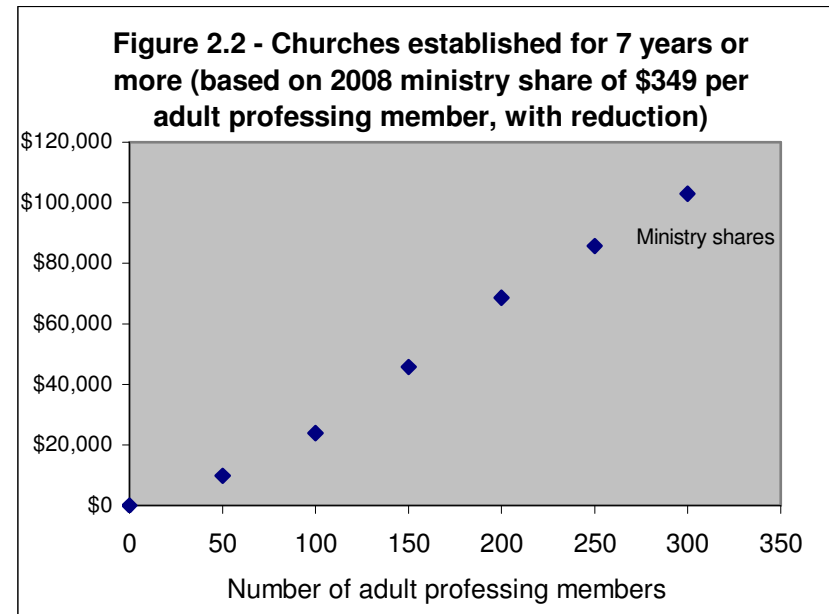
## B. Money

1. Classis GLA commitment:
  - a. Provide opportunity to participate in health and pension plans of Classis GLA and the CRC.
  - b. Provide opportunity for partial funding for church planters, emerging churches, seminary tuition, and leadership training.
  - c. Provide opportunity to participate in an interracial summer camp for middle school youth and a leadership development camp for senior high youth.
  - d. Provide opportunity to apply for loan funds for capital projects
2. Church's commitment:
  - a. As an emerging church, to give a tithe of the church's general giving to Classis GLA and CRCNA (Christian Reformed Church in North America) ministry shares. Figure 2.1 below illustrates this.
  - b. As a newly established church in the CRC, for the first 7 years, to give a tithe of the church's general giving to Classis GLA and CRCNA ministry shares. Figure 2.1 below illustrates this.

NOTE: Some churches pay ministry shares by percentage, for example, they split their ministry share giving 50/50 or 30/70—Classis GLA/CRCNA. Other churches first pay Classis GLA ministry shares, then CRCNA ministry shares. Each church is free to choose its own method.



- c. As an established church, for the 8th year and on, to give on the basis of the number of active professing members according to Classis GLA and CRC guidelines. The full ministry share to the denomination for 2008 is \$288.73 per professing member, but with smaller congregations can be reduced to as low as \$144.37 per professing member. The ministry share to Classis GLA is \$60 per professing member. Figure 2.2 below illustrates this concept.



**NOTES:**

1. Classis GLA knows that it may not be realistic for some churches entering the CRC to suddenly commit a tithe of income to ministry shares. Such a church must inform Classis of this and commit financially to reach a tithe of income in 5 years (start at 2% and add 2% each year up to 10%). For Classis GLA budgeting purposes, the church must inform the Classis Treasurer of this dollar amount in July—based on the church’s previous year’s giving. After 7 years in the CRC, the church will ordinarily shift to giving on the basis of ministry shares.

2. If due to exceptional circumstances a church finds the ministry share perimeters unworkable, the church must communicate its situation with the Classical Leadership Team and together they will work for a resolution.

3. To make ministry share payments:

a. Classis GLA

1) make check payable to “Classis GLA”

2) send to Classis GLA treasurer:

Goldene Byma  
10330 Oakgate St  
Bellflower CA 90706

b. CRCNA

1) make check payable to “CRCNA”

2) send to:

CRCNA  
Attn: Finance Department  
2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MA 49560

### **C. Ministry**

1. Classis GLA commitment:

a. Provide mentoring as described above.

b. Provide access to Classis GLA resources such as the Evangelist Training Program, Small Group training, and church health consultations.

c. Provide access to CRC educational, theological, and ministry support services through organizations like Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, Christian Reformed Home Missions, Pastor-Church Relations Committee.

d. Provide a strong national ministry partnership with other CRCs which provides: 1. effective, low-overhead global ministry in missions and poverty alleviation, which can include mission trips 2. educational/group resources for all ages 3. priority access to exceptional institutions of higher learning 4. youth ministry resources and mission trip opportunities

2. Church commitment: to participate in all Classis meetings and serve in ministry as follows.
  - a. Delegate a pastor, an elder/leader, and deacon to attend all classis meetings (up to 5 per year). The September and February meetings are on weekdays, the rest may be during the evenings. Any necessary absences must be reported to the Classis stated clerk prior to the meeting.
  - b. Provide either (a) the pastor or (b) a gifted member to serve on at least one classis ministry (in a ministry project, or a ministry team, etc.).

## **II PUBLIC PLEDGES**

1. The Classis staff will facilitate a meeting between two (2) classical representatives and the pastor and the church council to ensure clarity about the promises listed above and set a date for publicly pledging to partner in ministry as a CRC congregation.
2. The Classis staff will appoint two (2) classis representatives, who will welcome the pastor and congregation into the CRC at a worship service. Both a representative of the church council and the Classis will sign a pledge to keep these promises.

## **III FOLLOW UP**

Classis GLA: For the first 3 years that the church is CRC two (2) people designated by the Classical Leadership Team will meet with the church Council to discuss how Classis GLA and the pastor and church are doing in this ministry partnership so that blessings can be celebrated and challenges addressed. This will include going through a simple checklist of the promises described above. The Classis GLA rep will report on this meeting to the Classical Leadership Team, and through it to Classis as a whole.