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CHAPTER 9 THE MINISTER

DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF A MINISTER

- 9.1 A minister is a man who is called by God in the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, to a special ministry of the word. Only those who give evidence of being called and qualified by the Lord Jesus Christ shall be set apart by the ARPC to this ministry.
- 9.2 The call to ministry begins with the individual seeking to determine whether or not he has been called as a minister. Yet, as Christ fits His servants for this ministry, they must also evidence the necessary qualifications for this work.
- 9.3 The qualifications of a minister consist of such gifts as fit him for service as a teacher and leader in this ministry, and of such character and reputation as will continue honor to this office.
 - A. Spiritual Maturity. A minister must be mature in his faith, with absolute certainty of his own saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - B. Belief. A minister must accept the doctrines, government and worship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as agreeable to and founded upon the Word of God.
 - C. Knowledge. A minister must give evidence of his knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, the doctrines, government, and worship of our ARPC, and the duties of a minister.
 - D. Compassion. A minister must serve as Jesus Christ, who came “not to be ministered unto, but to minister.”

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- E. Personality. A minister must be one who will attract persons to Christ and His Church.
 - F. Intelligence. A minister must be capable of meeting the education requirements essential for ordination.
 - G. Education. A minister must present evidence of having obtained a baccalaureate degree, or its equivalent, from an accredited four-year college or university, as well as a master of divinity degree from an accredited seminary approved by the Presbytery. The educational requirements shall be waived only in extraordinary cases and such waiver shall require consent of three-fourths of the members of Presbytery. Prior to the meeting, the Presbytery shall be informed in writing of the circumstances which require the application of this extraordinary case waiver.
- 9.4 The Scriptures acknowledge no degrees of rank or dignity among ministers, they being equal in office and authority. The names of pastor, teacher, bishop and presbyter are used simply to set forth different duties and responsibilities.
- 9.5 The office of minister includes the office and authority of elder. For this reason the minister is also referred to as a presbyter.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MINISTER

- 9.6 A minister as a pastor (or associate pastor) of a particular congregation
- A. Public Responsibilities. A minister shall pray for and with his people; read the Scriptures; preach the Word; teach, reprove, exhort and comfort; administer the sacraments; pronounce the blessings of God upon the people; officiate at weddings and funerals; and serve with elders in all matters

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pertaining to the government, discipline, worship, and education of the congregation. He shall serve as an advisory member of all committees in the congregation. A minister shall also serve, with elders, in the higher courts of the Church.

- B. Private Responsibilities. A minister shall visit with and be available to his people as their pastor, counsel with and instruct them in spiritual things, and pray for and with them; visit especially the sick, the afflicted, and the aged; advise, comfort, and pray with those who have need; admonish those who are guilty of conduct unbecoming their Christian profession or who are indifferent to their religious duties; and, in general, assume the spiritual oversight of his people.

9.7 A minister as a teacher

- A. Some ministers are especially qualified by their gifts to be teachers and are called to teach in seminaries, colleges, and other schools, provided such teaching is in keeping with their calling as ministers and has the approval of the Presbytery of which they are members to labor “outside the bounds” of the Presbytery.
- B. A minister is no less a pastor as a teacher. He is to take pastoral oversight of those under his charge, to be diligent in promoting the work of the Kingdom, and to seek to win the lost to Jesus Christ.

9.8 A minister as an evangelist

- A. A minister can serve as an evangelist as long as he is a member in good standing of some Presbytery.
- B. He shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and perform the duties of a pastor in specific fields under the authority of the Presbytery,

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or devote himself entirely to preaching the Word in special evangelistic services under the supervision and direction of the pastor in whose charge he is laboring.

- 9.9 A minister as a missionary
- A. The Church shall ordain and send forth ministers as missionaries in obedience to the command of Christ to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
 - B. The minister, as a missionary, has the authority to perform the duties of pastor, teacher, and evangelist.
 - C. A minister, as a missionary in fields where there is no organized Presbytery, has the authority to exercise Presbyterial authority under the direction of the General Synod in organizing congregations, in receiving students of theology and directing their studies, and in ordaining and installing them as ministers. In such instances, the minister is still bound by the Standards of the church in all other areas of his ministry.
- 9.10 A minister as a church planter
- A. A Presbytery has the authority to call a minister to serve as a church planter in a work that is not organized into a congregation.
 - B. The main task of the church planter is to build up the “congregation” so that it becomes an organized church.
 - C. A church planter will serve as the pastor for the people who become a part of the mission church work.
 - D. The church planter will be the moderator of the Provisional Session.

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- E. The church planter is to be training men for leadership so that there will be qualified elder leadership in the group at the time of organization.
- 9.11 A minister as a bi-vocational or part-time pastor of a particular congregation.
- A. A minister can be called to enter into a bi-vocational role with a congregation and some other employment as approved by the Presbytery.
 - B. The bi-vocational pastor shall split his time between his employment responsibilities and the pastoral duties of the congregation according to a preset plan with the Presbytery.
 - C. Presbytery determines the criteria for bi-vocational or part-time pastors. The Presbytery and the individual pastor shall have a good understanding of the guidelines from the Board of Benefits in regard to the requirements to qualify for insurance and retirement benefits.
- 9.12 A minister as a chaplain
- A. A minister can serve as a Christian chaplain in the military or as an institutional chaplain as approved by the Presbytery.
 - B. A minister serving as a chaplain shall exercise his call to the ministry of the word and sacraments with the same diligence as he would in serving as the pastor of a church. He is under the authority of the Presbytery which approves him as well as the board, agency, or institution for which he works when necessary.
 - C. He, as authorized by the Presbytery, shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and perform the other pastoral duties required in his field of labor.
 - D. A minister serving as chaplain shall give preference to the Standards of the Associate Reformed

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Presbyterian Church even when the standards of the organization he serves differ.

- 9.13 A minister as in other positions
The varied work of the Church makes it necessary and proper for ministers to engage in ministries other than those specified. Ministers who are already ordained and wish to engage in such a ministry must receive approval from their Presbytery for any such work outside the normal pastoral call, and shall give an annual report to his Presbytery in order to be re-certified each year in that ministry which is “outside the bounds” of the Presbytery. Ministers shall not normally be ordained initially to such non-traditional ministries (especially if the position does not require ordination), but a Presbytery shall do so by a two-thirds majority vote in a regular stated meeting after considering the call. Ministers engaged in such ministries should discharge their duties faithfully and diligently, seeking to serve and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

STUDENTS UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY

- 9.14 Students under care of a Presbytery are those pursuing ordination and shall be referred to either as Students of Theology or Students of Divinity preparing for the gospel ministry.
- 9.15 Any student wishing to come under care of a Presbytery must have a letter of recommendation from the Session of the church where he is a member. Ordinarily, students will be under care for at least a year prior to ordination.
- 9.16 The Minister and His Work Committee, or its appropriate Presbytery committee, is to examine the candidate before presenting him to the Presbytery. He is to be examined in the following areas:

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- A. Saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ
 - B. Christian character
 - C. Conviction of being called by God to the ministry
- 9.17 Upon acceptance of the student, the Presbytery shall enroll and counsel with him.
- A. The Presbytery shall communicate and counsel the student concerning his studies, family life, financial needs, and spiritual growth.
 - B. The student shall be kept informed of all Presbytery business.
 - C. Assist the student in the steps moving towards ordination.
- 9.18 The student shall:
- A. Be regular in his attendance at meetings of Presbytery and the General Synod
 - B. Preach trial sermons before the Presbytery as directed
 - C. Communicate with the Presbytery through its committee any needs or changes in his status
 - D. Be given opportunities to preach in churches under the direction of the Presbytery
- 9.19 The Presbytery, with or without his request, has the authority to remove his name from the roll of students under its care. After a candidate has been under the care of a presbytery for five (5) years his name shall automatically be removed from the roll unless he has requested in writing an extension. The Presbytery committee shall evaluate the request in light of his evidence of good faith in continuing his preparation. The committee shall make a recommendation to the Presbytery for action.
- 9.20 A candidate shall be received under the care of the Presbytery in an appropriate service of recognition in

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which he shall be asked to stand before the Presbytery and answer the following questions:

- (1) Do you promise in reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a character consistent with your Christian profession and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for your ministry?
- (2) Do you promise to submit yourself to the supervision of the Presbytery in matters concerning your preparation for the ministry of the Word?

9.21 When these questions have been answered in the affirmative, the moderator or his appointee shall briefly address the candidate and shall close the service with prayer.

PROCEDURES FOR LICENSURE

9.22 It is agreeable to the Scriptures, and for the best interests of the Church, that trial be made of those who are to be ordained to the gospel ministry in order that this office not be committed to unworthy men and that churches have an opportunity to judge the qualifications of those by whom they are to be instructed and governed. To this end Presbyterians are to license candidates for the ministry as probationers to preach the gospel, who, after a competent trial of their gifts and a good report from the churches, are to be ordained to the office of the ministry.

9.23 As a rule no one shall be licensed to preach the gospel without a course of theological study embracing three (3) years. This, however, shall not prohibit students of

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theology from preaching under the direction of Presbytery, during their theological course.

- 9.24 Every candidate for licensure, whether or not he has a diploma from a seminary, shall be examined by the Presbytery. The trials for licensure shall consist of:
- A. A sermon to be delivered in public immediately before licensure
 - B. After the trials, the Presbytery shall proceed to consider it and also to offer suggestions and criticisms.
 - C. If the Presbytery is not satisfied with his trials and refuses to sustain them, they shall be appointed to him again, "all or in part," or he shall be directed to resume his studies, as the Presbytery deems best.
 - D. If his trials gives convincing evidence that he is lacking in the essential qualifications for the ministry, the Presbytery should kindly suggest to him to seek some other calling.
 - E. In open session, he shall be examined as to his soundness in the faith, and belief in, and adherence to the distinctive principles of the ARPC.
 - F. If his trials for licensure be sustained, he shall present himself before the Presbytery in public meeting and take the obligations in the prescribed formula of questions:
 - (1) Do you believe in one God— Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and acknowledge Him Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body?
 - (2) Do you affirm that the Bible alone, being God-breathed, is the Word of God Written,

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infallible in all that it teaches, and inerrant in the original manuscripts?

- (3) Do you accept the doctrines of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as founded on the Word of God and as the expression of your own faith, and do you resolve to adhere thereto?
- (4) Do you accept the government, discipline, and worship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as agreeable to and founded on the Word of God?
- (5) Do you promise to submit in the spirit of love to the authority of the Presbytery in subordination to the General Synod, and to promote the unity, peace, purity, and prosperity of the Church?
- (6) Do you sincerely resolve to fulfill all your responsibilities in your home life and in all your relations with your fellowman, following after righteousness, faith, and love?
- (7) Do you accept and enter upon your ministry with a desire to glorify God and to be instrumental in strengthening His Church?

- G. The moderator shall then declare him licensed by the Presbytery, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to preach the gospel as a licentiate for the holy ministry; and shall, in a few words, remind him of the importance, the difficulties and the excellence of that work on which he is about to enter, and exhort him to devote himself to it in faith and zeal. The

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licentiate's membership remains with the local congregation until he is ordained.

- H. Licentiates shall be given certificates of licensure signed by the moderator and the stated clerk of the Presbytery.
- I. Such license shall expire at the end of two (2) years unless the licentiate shall request in writing an extension and such extension be recommended by the Committee/Commission on the Minister and His Work for approval by the Presbytery.
- J. Licentiates as they are commonly called, shall labor under the direction of their respective Presbyteries. The Presbytery, in assigning them fields of labor, is to consult, as far as possible, their circumstances and inclinations, always bearing in mind, however, that the interests of the Church are more to be considered than the personal wishes of any laborer.
- K. It is their duty to attend the meetings of their respective Presbyteries and of the Synod, in which they shall have the right to deliberate and advise, and shall always be consulted in matters pertaining to their particular work and appointments.
- L. Licentiates, not being ministers, shall not administer the sacraments, pronounce the benediction, officiate in marriage ceremonies, ordain officers, or act as moderator or vote in any church court.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION

- 9.25 When a candidate has completed his academic training as required by the General Synod and the Presbytery of which he is a candidate, the Presbytery shall take steps for his ordination.

Requirements for ordination, in addition to academic standards, shall consist of the following:

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- A. A review and examination of the candidate's personal Christian religious experience.
 - B. An examination of his knowledge of the English Bible.
 - C. An examination of his knowledge of theology and his doctrinal positions.
 - D. An examination of his knowledge of the history of the catholic Church in general and the history and government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in particular, and the determination of his approval of the form of government, discipline and worship of the ARPC.
 - E. A sermon in manuscript form preached before the Presbytery and shall be subjected to constructive criticism by the Presbytery. The Presbytery can assign or approve the text for this sermon.
 - F. A call either to a congregation or to another Presbytery approved ministerial labor.
- 9.26 The Presbyteries shall strive for uniformity in their examination for ordination and shall not omit any of these requirements for ordination. It is strongly encouraged that each Presbytery provide both an extensive written exam to then be followed by an oral exam, both in committee, prior to the oral exam before the full Presbytery.
- 9.27 If a minority of one-fourth or more of the members of the Presbytery disapprove a candidate's examination, the Presbytery shall require a further examination in writing on questions proposed by the Presbytery, which questions and answers shall become a part of the official records of the Presbytery.
- 9.28 When the Presbytery has approved a candidate's examination and is furnished evidence of a candidate's

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call, the Presbytery shall appoint a time and place for the ordination of the candidate. Usually the ordination shall be held before a called meeting of the Presbytery in the church of which the candidate is to be pastor.

- 9.29 On the day appointed, the Presbytery shall be convened and a minister shall preach an appropriate sermon. The presiding officer shall review all that the Presbytery and candidate have done in preparation for this ordination. He shall stress the nature and importance of ordination and shall impress upon the congregation the solemnity of the occasion.
- 9.30 The presiding officer shall then propose to the candidate the following Formula of Questions for Ordination:
- (1) Do you believe in one God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and do you confess anew the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and acknowledge Him Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body?
 - (2) Do you affirm that the Bible alone, being God-breathed, is the Word of God Written, infallible in all that it teaches, and inerrant in the original manuscripts?
 - (3) Do you accept the doctrines of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as founded on the Word of God and as the expression of your own faith, and do you resolve to adhere thereto?
 - (4) Do you accept the government, discipline, and worship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as agreeable to and founded on the Word of God?
 - (5) Do you promise to submit in the spirit of love to the authority of the Presbytery in

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subordination to the General Synod, and to promote the unity, peace, purity, and prosperity of the Church?

- (6) Do you sincerely resolve to fulfill all your responsibilities in your home life and in all your relations with your fellowman, following after righteousness, faith, and love?
 - (7) Do you accept and enter upon your ministry with a desire to glorify God and to be instrumental in strengthening His Church?
 - (8) Do you promise to preach the gospel in its purity and simplicity, declaring the whole counsel of God, and to perform all your official duties with zeal and faithfulness, seeking the salvation of sinners?
- 9.31 The candidate having answered these questions in the affirmative, shall kneel and be ordained by prayer and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery.
- 9.32 After the ordination prayer, the members of the Presbytery shall take him by the hand saying, "We give you the right hand of fellowship to take part in this ministry with us."
- 9.33 If the ordination is not in connection with his installation as pastor, the presiding officer shall declare the candidate set apart to the ministry, emphasizing the importance, the difficulties, and the excellence of the ministry which he now enters.
- 9.34 The newly ordained minister shall be given a Certificate of Ordination signed by the moderator and clerk of the Presbytery.
- 9.35 A full report of the ordination service shall be recorded in the minutes of the Presbytery and a copy forwarded to the

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congregation of which he was formerly a member so that his name be removed from the membership roll.

PROCEDURE FOR INSTALLATION

- 9.36 A minister shall be a member of the Presbytery having jurisdiction over the congregation of which he is to be pastor and shall have a valid call properly executed by the Presbytery before he shall be eligible for installation.
- 9.37 The Presbytery or its commission shall conduct the installation service. A complete report of the service shall be submitted to the Presbytery and recorded in its minutes.
- 9.38 A minister can be installed as the pastor or associate pastor of one or more congregations. The procedure shall be adapted as needed for the specifics of the call.
- 9.39 When the installation service is being held in connection with his ordination, the pastor elect shall give affirmative answer to the Formula of Questions for Ordination, after which he shall give affirmative answer to the installation questions.
- 9.40 When the pastor elect has been previously ordained, he shall renew his ordination vows by giving affirmative answer to the full Formula of Questions of Ordination, after which he shall answer the following installation questions:
- (1) Do you accept the office of pastor of the congregation, and do you promise to perform faithfully all the duties of this office, both public and private, to the best of your ability as you are led by the Holy Spirit?
 - (2) Do you make these promises in the presence of Him to Whom you must ultimately give an account?

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- 9.41 When affirmative answers have been given to these questions, the following question shall then be addressed to the congregation:

“Do you, the members of this congregation, now acknowledge and receive *[insert name]* as your pastor, and do you promise to give him all the honor, obedience, encouragement, cooperation, and support in the spirit of love to which this office entitles him and as you promised him in the call?”

- 9.42 When the members of the congregation have signified their affirmative answer to this question by standing, the presiding officer shall say:

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great King and Head of the Church, I now declare *[insert name]* duly (ordained) (installed) as pastor of this congregation.”

- 9.43 The pastor and congregation shall then be addressed by those appointed or invited by the Presbytery as to their respective duties in the solemn relation into which they have now entered. Following the benediction, the members of the congregation shall come forward and give him the right hand of fellowship, indicating their acceptance of him as their pastor.
- 9.44 The installation service of ministers in other approved ministries shall be carried out in a manner similar to that of a pastor.
- 9.45 A Presbytery has the authority to refuse to install a minister. He shall be informed of the reasons and he, or

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the congregation who has called him, has the authority to appeal the decision of the Presbytery to the General Synod.

PROCEDURE FOR CALLS TO PARTICULAR CONGREGATIONS

- 9.46 No person shall be chosen for pastor of a congregation who has not been regularly ordained, or examined by the Presbytery and approved for ordination.
- 9.47 The relationships between a minister and a congregation include those of a pastor, associate pastor, stated supply or occasional supply. Each of these shall be a minister except the Presbytery can approve a student of theology or a layman as an occasional supply.
- 9.48 The procedure for a call to an associate pastor shall be the same as a call to a pastor.
- 9.49 A pastor or associate pastor shall be elected by the congregation in the manner outlined below.
- 9.50 The relationship is established by installation and is dissolved only by action of the Presbytery.
- 9.51 The terms of the call for an associate pastor shall specify the particular function which he is to fulfill in the life of the congregation. His work shall be under the supervision of the pastor and the session. Upon dissolution of a pastor's relationship, the relationship of the associate pastor shall be reviewed carefully by the congregation and Presbytery.
- 9.52 A stated supply is called by the Session to perform the functions of a pastor in a congregation.
- A. The relationship shall be established by permission of the Presbytery only after it has given careful consideration to the qualifications of the individual and to all other factors involved.

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- B. The term of a stated supply shall be for no more than twelve months. It is renewable.
 - C. No formal call shall be issued by the congregation.
- 9.53 An occasional supply is a minister, a student of theology, or a layman secured by the Session to conduct services during periods when a congregation is without a pastor or when its pastor is unable to perform his duties.
- A. The Session shall not secure any person as occasional supply, except in an emergency, without the approval of Presbytery or the installed pastor.
 - B. The Presbytery shall keep a list of those who are available for immediate service as occasional supplies, including ministers, students of theology, and laymen who give evidence of outstanding abilities as Christian leaders.
- 9.54 The procedure for a call of a pastor or associate pastor shall be:
- A. The Session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a pastoral search committee. At least half of the committee shall be composed of elders who are either on the Session or who have recently rotated off. Others chosen for the committee should display mature Christian faith and wisdom and be well acquainted with the life and polity of the ARPC.
 - B. When the pastoral search committee is ready to report, it shall submit the name of its nominee to the Session for approval or rejection. If the Session approves the candidate, it shall call a congregational meeting for the purpose of nominating that individual and approving his call. This meeting shall be presided over by the moderator of the Session appointed by the Presbytery, who shall be responsible for having a properly drafted call.

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- C. It is desirable that the choice be unanimous, or nearly so. If the minority persists in its rejection of the nominee, the congregation shall be asked to reconsider its vote. A full account of the voting shall be given to the Presbytery along with the call.
- D. If the candidate is not approved by a significant majority, no other candidate shall be considered at that meeting and the pastoral search committee shall subsequently reconvene to consider another candidate for a future meeting.
- E. After the pastor or associate pastor is elected, the call shall be signed, first by the elders and deacons, then by the other voting members.
- F. The signed call shall be confirmed in writing by the moderator.
- G. The signed call shall be delivered to the Presbytery for approval. Every call is pending until the successful completion of the requirements of the Presbytery and the Presbytery's approval.
- H. The call shall:
 - (1) Clearly state the amount of salary and other allowances.
 - (2) Include information as to manse, vacation, moving expense, medical and hospitalization insurance.
 - (3) Include provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARPC Retirement Plan (for churches in the United States) or to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan, approved by the presbytery (for churches located outside the United States), according to the guidelines approved by the General Synod (except for calls

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to new fields or congregations which are unable to support a pastor).

- (4) Provide for an annual review of the terms of the call by the Session.
- (5) Meet all requirements of the Presbytery before approval.
- (6) Be presented to a pastor-elect by the Presbytery in which the congregation issuing the call is located.

[Where provisions of the call respecting contributions for the ARPC Retirement Plan have not been made for a period of one (1) year, due notice shall be given by the Board of Benefits to the minister, clerk of Session, clerk of Presbytery, and chairman of the Presbytery's Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work that the terms of said minister's call have been breached. The failure to meet the terms of a call within a period of one year from date of notification shall constitute the termination of the call for Retirement Plan purposes.]

- I. If a call is issued to a member of another Presbytery, the pastor-elect shall secure a letter of transfer to the Presbytery in which the congregation issuing the call is located, where he shall then be presented with the call.

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- J. If the pastor-elect accepts the call, the Presbytery shall appoint a commission to conduct the installation service.
- K. The Presbytery can decline to present a call which is regular in all aspects if, in its judgment, the best interests of the ARPC so require.
- L. A minister who is serving as a church planter can be installed as a pastor of the ARPC at its organizational service, if he has been called as a pastor prior to the service at a called meeting of the petitioners and the Presbytery or its Commission on the Minister and His Work has approved him for this call and the terms of the call.
- M. The procedure for calls to other ministries shall be similar to that of a call to a pastor.
- N. Any changes made in the terms of the call as a result of the annual review shall be submitted for approval to the Presbytery at its first stated meeting of the year.

PROCEDURE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

- 9.55 The dissolution of the pastoral relationship shall be by action of the Presbytery. Such action can be initiated by the pastor, the Session, the congregation, or the Presbytery.
- 9.56 When a pastor desires to dissolve his pastoral relationship:
 - A. He shall first inform the Session in writing of his desire and send a copy of the request to the Presbytery.
 - B. The Session shall then call a congregational meeting to act on the request.

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- 9.57 When a Session desires to dissolve the pastoral relationship:
- A. They shall first inform the pastor in writing of their desire and send a copy of the request to the Presbytery.
 - B. They shall then notify the congregation of their desire by calling a congregational meeting to act on the request.
- 9.58 When a congregation desires to dissolve the pastoral relationship:
- A. Communicant members shall request of the Session in writing to call a congregational meeting to act upon their desire to dissolve the pastoral relationship.
 - B. The Session shall determine if the request is appropriate.
 - C. If the Session determines the request is appropriate, they call a congregational meeting to act on the request.
 - D. The Session shall notify the pastor and the Presbytery in writing of the desire to dissolve the pastoral relationship.
- 9.59 When a congregation acts on a request for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship:
- A. The action of the congregation shall be presented in writing to the Presbytery.
 - B. If the congregation concurs with the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship, the Presbytery shall dissolve the pastoral relationship unless the Presbytery determines that it is in the best interest of the congregation and the pastor to deny the request.
 - C. If the congregation does not concur with the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship, the

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congregation shall submit its reasons in writing to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall give careful consideration to all such reasons along with the desires of the Session, if different from the congregation, and take action in the best interests of the congregation and the pastor.

- 9.60 When a Presbytery desires to dissolve a pastoral relationship, it has the authority to do so without formal application from any party when, acting on good information, and it has determined it is in the best interest and welfare of the congregation and pastor to dissolve the relationship.
- 9.61 The Presbytery has the authority to request an installed pastor to take up the work in another field of labor, but cannot require him to do so. Any pastor so requested shall give prayerful consideration to such a request for an indication of the will of God.

PROCEDURE FOR TRANSFERRING MINISTERS FROM ANOTHER PRESBYTERY

- 9.62 Transfer within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- A. The Presbytery has the authority to transfer a minister or a student of theology from one Presbytery to another. Such transfers are initiated by the minister, licentiate, or student, by informing his Presbytery of his desire to be transferred, and securing a letter of standing which shall be presented to the receiving Presbytery prior to any examination and approval for reception.
- B. The Presbytery receiving a minister from another Presbytery shall examine him as to his beliefs, his Christian character and his qualifications to

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perform the duties of his office. After examination the Presbytery has the authority to decline to receive the minister, or postpone his reception until he has engaged in further preparation. The Presbytery shall strive for uniformity in the examinations given.

- C. A minister transferring from one Presbytery to another shall present a certificate of transfer indicating his good standing in the dismissing presbytery. A certificate of transfer shall be issued only after the pastoral or other relationship has been dissolved. He shall be a member of the dismissing Presbytery until he has been officially received by the Presbytery to which he is transferring, and an official notice of his reception has been sent to the dismissing Presbytery.
- D. The Presbytery shall record the dates of the certificates and other vital information in its minutes.

9.63 Transfer from another denomination.

- A. The Procedure for transferring ministers from another denomination shall follow in substance the procedure for transfer from one Presbytery to another within the ARPC.
- B. The minister must present an acceptable certificate of transfer from the Presbytery or other Church body of which he was a member.
- C. The minister applying for membership in one of the Presbyteries shall be examined as to his beliefs, his Christian character, his qualifications, and his knowledge of and adherence to the doctrines and

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principles of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- 9.64 The minister requesting transfer from another denomination shall furnish evidence of an education equal to that required of ministers trained under the care of the Presbyteries of the ARPC. (Chapter 9.3.G)
- 9.65 Transfer to another denomination.
The procedure for transferring ministers to another denomination shall follow in substance the procedure for transfer to another Presbytery within the ARPC.

PROVISIONS FOR CALLS TO OTHER MINISTRIES

- 9.66 The procedure for calls to ministries other than those involving pastoral relationship shall be essentially the same as for calls to the pastorate. The court or agency issuing the call shall present to the Presbytery of which he is a member, which shall retain primary jurisdiction, a call appropriate to the service involved.
- 9.67 When a minister desires to accept work not under the jurisdiction of any ARPC court or agency:
- A. He shall request permission of his Presbytery.
 - B. The Presbytery shall grant permission upon determination that the particular work serves the best interests of the ARPC and the minister.
 - C. If permission is not granted and the minister persists in accepting such work, he shall request that he be divested of his office without censure.
 - D. If he does not so request, the Presbytery shall charge him with violation of his ordination vows and institute judicial process against him.