**Classis Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT)**

**Recommendation Form: Article 8**

Applicant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_Labbe, Ken Paul\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This applicant was interviewed by the CMLT of Classis Huron on October 9, 2024

**Statement of Need**

Journey Toward Ordination, page. 27

*“The need for calling a minister ordained outside of the Christian Reformed Church in North America shall be acknowledged when one or more of the following conditions apply:*

*a. The minister to be called has such extraordinary qualifications that the church recognizes that it would be important for the denomination to acquire the minister’s service.*

*b. The need of a particular congregation for a pastor is so urgent that it can be met only by calling a minister of another denomination.*

*c. The minister is a new-church developer and is being called to start a new church. d. There is a need for indigenous leadership in a multicultural or ethnic minority church. (Note also the rest of Church Order Supplement Article 8 E and F)*

1. Please describe and reflect on the “need factor” with reference to this applicant:

***Article 8 Document #6***

There is a severe shortage of pastors in the CRCNA, and more locally, in Classis Huron. We have around 6 vacancies in our classis, and the pool for filling these vacancies is quite small at the moment. Ken is helping to fill the need that exists in Palmerston CRC and is doing commendable work among God’s people in that church.

2. Summarize what you believe are the applicant’s strengths and/or gifts for ministry.

Ken is a gifted preacher and very ably leads worship services. He’s providing good leadership among the congregation, guiding council well, and is keenly connecting with the community in Palmsterson.

3. Summarize the areas that you believe the applicant could still grow in order to become even more effective in ministry.

Ken might be helped by learning a little more about CRC distinctives. The differences between the RCA and CRC are not overwhelming, but there are a few.

4. What motivates the applicant’s desire to become a Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church?

Over the years, Ken has felt less comfortable in the RCA and feels that the CRC is a better reflection of his theological convictions.

5. What previous ministry experience does the applicant have? Attach a separate piece of paper if necessary.

Ken has served in the RCA as youth/worship pastor for 5 years and a Minister of the Word and Sacrament for 12 years.

Page **2** of **5**

***Article 8 Document #6***

6. Has the applicant begun work in a CRC setting as “stated supply? ❑ Yes ❑ No If “Yes,” when does the position begin and where will it be?

Nature of position: Minister of the Word and Sacrament

Location: Palmerston CRC, Palmerston, Ontario

Date position begins: November 2022

**(*Note:* Licensure to Preach under Article 8 is granted by the Candidacy Committee in consultation with the Classis after the submission of the initial documents in the Article 8 affiliation process.)**

7. When does the applicant anticipate completing the requirements of the Modified Ecclesiastical Program for Ministerial Candidacy? (and has the CMLT begun discussions with the Candidacy Committee regarding this program?)

Yet to be determined.

**Endorsement**

Do you, the CMLT, recommend the applicant for pursuit of Christian ministry in the CRC? Yes, without reservation - The CMLT of Classis Huron strongly recommends Ken

Yes, with reservation (elaborate on a separate piece of paper)

No, we do not recommend (elaborate on a separate piece of paper)

Page **3** of **5**

***Article 8 Document #6***

Feel free to provide any additional comments on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this form.

CMLT Information

CMLT of Classis: \_\_\_\_\_\_Classis Huron\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CMLT Chairperson: Henry Meinen

Address: \_\_915 Baker Ave, Listowel, ON N4W 3V7

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_519 492-1074\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_hmeinen1@calvinseminary.edu\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**After completing and signing this form, please send it directly to the Candidacy Committee. Also, if you as a classis team have not already done so, include copies of:**

1. The Personal Application form for this applicant

2. The Recommendation from the Former Local Church or Ministry

3. The Recommendation from the Former Regional Body

4. A Photo-copy of the Ordination Certificate of this applicant

5. The initial Application from a Local CRC Church Council

Page **4** of **5**

***Article 8 Document #6***

**Please send these materials by email to the Director of Candidacy, Rev. Susan LaClear (slaclear@crcna.org). You may also send them via ground postal service to the following address:**

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Candidacy Committee

1700 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI

49508-1407

Page **5** of **5**