

## COMMISSIONED PASTOR POLICY

In 2013, an Elder accepted a position in ministry at a United Church of Christ congregation. She requested Classis to commission her to this position as a Commissioned Pastor. The Care of Students Commission believed Classis can do this. The Mentoring Commission believed Classis can not do this. Each submitted a paper supporting their view. The Executive Committee underscored before the discussion that the question was about the qualifications of Classis to make such appointment, not the Elder or the ministry.

**Does the Constitution of the RCA permit Classis to commission a Commissioned Pastor for work in another ecclesial community?**

**CL14-7 On the question “Does the Constitution of the RCA permit Classis to commission a Commissioned Pastor for work in another ecclesial community? the vote by paper ballot was 31 yea and 31 nay. The question was declared answered in the negative.**

The vote on the question being negative, it is now policy for this Classis that Commissioned Pastors may be commissioned only for ministries either in congregations of Classis or in communities that are not ecclesial, such as the Christian Health Care Center or the Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat. This policy has been added to the compilation of Classis policies in the Classis Directory.