

# APPENDIX 1

## ECCLESIASTICAL ORDINANCES

### FORM 1

(Re.: Article 6 of the Church Order):

### CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF MINISTER OF THE WORD

To whom it may concern

Classis ..... of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia, held on ..... at ..... has examined, according to Article 6 of the Church Order and in accordance with the synodical regulations for the Peremptory Examination, Candidate ..... who has been called to the Ministry of the Word and the Sacraments by the church of .....

Having witnessed the subscription to the Form for Ministers of the Word by the above mentioned brother Classis has admitted him to the Ministry of the Word and the Sacraments in The Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

For the Classis:

..... chairman

..... clerk

**FORM 2**

(Re.: Article 7 of the Church Order):

**CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OF MINISTER (by the Church)**

The consistory of The Free Reformed Church of ..... has been advised by the Reverend ..... , its minister of the Word since ....., that he has accepted the call extended to him by .....

At its meeting held on ..... the consistory decided to:

1. 1. grant the Reverend ..... an honourable discharge from his duties with The Free Reformed Church of ....., effective as from the ..... day of ..... 19., from which day he shall be deemed engaged in the service of .....
2. declare that during the period of his ministry within The Free Reformed Church of ..... he has been faithful and diligent in discharging the duties of his office, pure in doctrine and confession, and godly in his walk of life within the congregation;
3. provide him with two copies of this Certificate of Release for presentation, in accordance with Article 7 of the Church Order, to the church of ....., and to classis ....., as proof of proper and lawful release from this church, and as a testimony of sound life and doctrine;
4. record its thankfulness for the faithful labour which he has performed during his ..... year stay in The Free Reformed Church of ..... , and on his departure commend him to the LORD and His grace with the fervent prayer that the LORD may confirm the fruits of his labour and cause him to be a blessing within the church which he may now begin to serve.

For the consistory:

..... chairman

..... clerk

**FORM 3**

(Re.: Article 7 of the Church Order):

**CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OF MINISTER (by classis)**

Classis ..... of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia, held at ..... on ..... , acknowledges the advice received from The Free Reformed Church of ..... , that the Reverend ..... has accepted the call extended to him by the ..... , and that the consistory of The Free Reformed Church of ..... has, at its meeting held on (date) ..... , decided to grant the Reverend ..... an honourable discharge from his duties with The Free Reformed Church of ..... , effective as from the .....day of ..... , 19.. , from which day he shall be deemed engaged in the service of .....

Classis has decided to:

1. grant the Reverend ..... an honourable discharge from his duties within the Classis;
2. declare that during the period of his ministry within the Classis he has been faithful and diligent in discharging the duties of his office, pure in doctrine and confession, and godly in his walk of life.
3. provide him with two copies of this Certificate of Release for presentation, in accordance with Article 7 of the Church Order, to the church of ..... , and to classis ..... (optional: of the ..... Churches) as proof of proper and lawful release from The Free Reformed Church of ..... (optional: and the bond of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia), and as a testimony of sound life and doctrine;
4. record its thankfulness for the faithful labour which he has performed during his ..... year stay in The Free Reformed Church of ..... (optional: and in the bond of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia), and on his departure commend him to the LORD and His grace with the fervent prayer that the LORD may confirm the fruits of his labour and cause him to be a blessing within the church which he may now begin to serve.

For the Classis:

..... chairman

..... clerk

#### **Form 4**

(Re.: Article 24 of the Church Order):

#### **SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

We, ministers of the Word in The Free Reformed Churches of Australia, signatories to this Subscription Form, sincerely and with a good conscience before the LORD, declare by our signature that we wholeheartedly believe and are fully convinced that all articles and points of doctrine contained in the Three Forms of Unity, namely the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort, are in full agreement with the Word of God.

We promise therefore that we will diligently teach and faithfully defend the aforesaid doctrine, without either directly or indirectly contradicting the same in our public preaching or writing.

We also promise not only to earnestly reject all errors which conflict with the aforesaid doctrine, but that we shall at all times be willing to refuse and contradict them, doing our utmost in reproving, combating, and helping to resist such errors.

Should reservations regarding the said doctrine arise in our minds at any time in the future we faithfully promise not to propose, teach, or defend them, neither in our preaching nor in our writing, publicly or privately, but to first disclose these reservations to the ecclesiastical assemblies in the ecclesiastical way so that they may examine them.

Furthermore, we promise that we will always be prepared to submit ourselves willingly to the judgement of the ecclesiastical assemblies. Should we refuse to submit ourselves to the judgement of the ecclesiastical assemblies or should we persist in our reservations we agree by that very fact to be suspended from our office.

Moreover, should the consistory, the classis, or synod at any time upon sufficient grounds and in order to preserve the uniformity and purity of the true doctrine deem it necessary to require of us a further explanation of our opinion regarding any part of the said doctrine, we promise always to be willing and ready to comply with such a request, upon the understanding that by the very fact of our refusal we will be suspended from our office.

However, we reserve for ourselves the right of appeal should we believe ourselves aggrieved by the judgement of the consistory or classis. Until such a decision is made upon such an appeal we will submit to the determination and judgement of the consistory and/or classis.

## **Form 5**

(Re.: Article 25 of the Church Order):

### **SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS**

We, Elders and Deacons of The Free Reformed Church of ..... , signatories to this Subscription Form, sincerely, solemnly, and with a good conscience before the LORD, declare by our signature that we wholeheartedly believe and are fully convinced that all articles and points of doctrine contained in the Three Forms of Unity, namely the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort, are in full agreement with the Word of God.

We promise therefore that in our respective offices we will diligently teach and faithfully defend the aforesaid doctrine, earnestly reject all errors which conflict with this doctrine, and declare that we will exert ourselves in keeping the church free from all such errors.

Should reservations regarding the said doctrines arise in our minds at any time in the future, we faithfully promise not to propose, teach or defend them, neither publicly nor privately, but to disclose these reservations to the consistory so that it may examine them.

Furthermore, we promise that we will always be prepared to submit ourselves willingly to the judgement of the consistory. Should we refuse to submit ourselves to the judgement of the consistory or should we persist in our reservations we agree that by that very fact we be suspended from our respective offices.

Moreover, should the consistory at any time upon sufficient grounds and in order to preserve the uniformity and purity of the true doctrine deem it necessary to require of us a further explanation of our opinion regarding any part of the said doctrine, we promise always to be willing and ready to comply with such a request, with the understanding that by the very fact of our refusal we will be suspended from our respective offices, reserving for ourselves the right to appeal. Until such a decision is made upon such an appeal we will submit to the determination and judgement of the consistory.

**Form 6**

(Re.: Article 13 of the Church Order)

**FORM FOR EMERITUS DECLARATION**

Classis..... of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia, held at..... on ..... , acknowledges the advice received from the consistory of the Church of ....., that the Reverend ....., who has served that church as Minister of the Word since ....., has requested to be released from the responsibilities of his office.

Furthermore, it is acknowledged that the said consistory at its meeting of ..... has acceded to this request, consistent with the provisions of Article 13 C.O.

Supported by the favourable advice of Deputies Article 48 CO it declares:

1. that Reverend ..... be granted an honourable release from the responsibilities of his office as from .....
2. that Reverend ....., during the time of his labour within the Classis and the bond of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia, has been faithful and diligent in his office and godly in his walk of life;
3. that Reverend ..... be thanked for the ..... years of faithful service which the LORD allowed him to perform in the Classis and the bond of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

Finally, we commend Reverend ..... to the LORD with the fervent prayer that it may please Him to confirm the fruits of his labour.

For the Classis:

..... chairman

..... clerk