

## **Guidelines for the Pastoral Proficiency Program**

Following is a summarised overview of the Guidelines of the PPP prepared by the Theological College in Hamilton and presently in use by the Canadian Reformed Churches in which the tasks of the students and the mentor are described.

The complete guidelines are available from deputies for perusal.

The guidelines include a draft letter of Agreement between local Consistory and the student for the 3 months internship and is signed by both parties.

If the churches adopt to participate in this Program, then the financial implications will have to be addressed.

Deputies may be mandated to develop proposals how to implement the Program and the financial obligations to the churches.

### Orientation session in the first year.

*Goal:* To give the students a somewhat less 'romantic' but more 'realistic' view of the work of a minister.

Then follows a list of topics for discussion.

These include:

- time management
- cooperation with elders and deacons
- how to conduct visits
- how to prevent unrealistic expectations from the side of the congregation
- importance of personal devotion
- defend your priorities: preaching and teaching

### One week in house training of the students' second year

*Goal:* To give the student a first impression of various aspects of the ministry, and to show him the need for self-disciplined structure, as well as flexibility.

The student is expected to follow through with the mentor in all his activities during this particular week.

He will accompany the mentor in a number of pastoral visits.

He has to prepare a sermon outline on the same text as the mentor is planning to preach on the next Sunday.

He will attend a consistory meeting.

### Training for catechism Instruction during the students' 3<sup>rd</sup> year

*Goal:* To make the student more familiar with the necessary skills for effective Instruction in the doctrine of the church.

The student observes two evenings of Catechism instruction given by the mentor. The mentor discusses his method, the material that he is using, as well as other aspects of his teaching.

The student takes some of the mentor's classes for a minimum of 4 evenings in a row.

### Three months (*Can*) summer internship between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year

*Goals:* To give the student some first hand experience in the practical aspects of the ministry. And to assess the student's abilities to function as a pastor.

A prerequisite is the successful completion of the classical examination for permission to speak an edifying word.

The student is obligated to prepare and deliver one sermon per week throughout his internship. Submit the sermon to the mentor for proofreading and supervision. Over the period the student should be making a total of about 50 pastoral visits. In the earlier part together with the mentor and after that by himself. Some visits should be made with elders and/or deacons.

In consultation with the mentor and with the consistory the student will be asked to chair a number of meetings.

At the completion of the internship reports will be received from the mentor and the student.

If the report is favourable he will be recommended that the Senate issue the Certificate of Pastoral Proficiency to the student for his preparatory Classical examination.