# **Ministerial Candidate Questionnaire**

Please prayerfully and briefly answer the following questions. There are numerous questions here, but we are not looking for a lot of details, just a general understanding of these matters. So, please be brief. Thank you.

## PERSONAL AND FAMILY

1. Where were you born? Raised? Educated?

2. Did you do other work before entering the ministry?

3. Please describe your conversion experience?

4. How you were “called” into ministry?

5. Are you single? Married? Divorced? Widowed?

6. If married, how is your spouse supportive of your ministry?

7. If divorced, how do you see this making an impact on your ministry?

8. Do you have any children? Any living at home? What are their ages? Tell us about them.

9. How does your family feel about your moving?

10. Tell us about your devotional life?

11. Can you share some experiences where you felt God was directing your life?

## THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

1. Do you believe in the Trinity – that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

2. Do you accept the declarations of the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed? Do you have any reservations about any of the statements of these two creeds? If so, tell us about them.

3. Do you accept the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God? To what extent should they be considered the “ultimate rule of faith and practice”?

4. What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

5. Was Jesus truly God and truly man?

6. Was He born of a virgin named Mary through supernatural means?

7. What does salvation mean to you?

8. Do you believe in universal salvation? Why or why not?

9. Do you believe that apart from Jesus, human beings are condemned by their sins?

10. Do you believe that Jesus has atoned for our sins? Was this atonement absolutely necessary?

11. Do you believe that Jesus was physically and literally raised from the dead or is the resurrection primarily “symbolic”?

12. What do you believe about the return of Christ and the “end times”?

13. What do you believe about the validity of other churches? Other religions?

14. What are your views on baptism (infant or believer only, immersion versus sprinkling, baptismal regeneration, etc.)?

15. Are you able to affirm the theological perspectives of the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches (EA)? Grace Evangelical Christian Church belongs to this association.

16. What is your understanding of Genesis 1-3? How do you understand the six days? How do you understand the fall of man?

## WORSHIP STYLE AND PREFERENCES

1. Do you prefer worship that is liturgical or non-liturgical? Contemporary or traditional?

2. What kind of hymnal do you prefer?

3. Do you like to use worship songs in services? If so, in what kind of setting or format? If not, why not?

4. How do you evangelize during a worship service? Do you use altar calls?

5. Do you observe the festivals and seasons of the Church Year?

6. How do you feel about lay participation in the leadership of worship? Give us some examples to illustrate your answer.

7. What is your style of preaching? How is it related to biblical passages? How do you prepare a sermon?

8. What are your views on the meaning and practice of the Lord’s Supper? How often should we take communion? Wine or grape juice?

9. What are your views on pastors wearing a robe while leading worship?

### APPROACH TO MINISTRY

1. What have you enjoyed most in the churches you have served?

2. What have been some of the problems or frustrations in your ministry experience?

3. Can you describe a typical work week for you?

4. How do you “rest” from the obligations of ministry?

5. How often do you feel you should visit congregational members?

6. To what extent should church officers or other lay people share in member visitation?

7. What are your Confirmation/Church Membership preferences and practices? (length of study? instructor? subject matter or curriculum?)

8. Do you help to plan and assist in youth programs?

9. Would you consider teaching a Sunday school class? Occasionally? Regularly?

10. What is your opinion of Bible study groups and other types of small group ministry?

11. Without knowing our present capabilities, given the proper planning, are there one or two ideas that you would hope to try here after your arrival? If so, what are they? If not, why not?

12. What is your personal understanding and stand on homosexuality? Abortion? Inclusive language? Definition of marriage?

13. What do you think about people living together before marriage? How would you respond to a couple who is living together if they came to ask you to marry them in the church?

14. Will you refuse the rites or ordinances of the church to some people? If so, under which circumstances?

15. How would you define your relationship in the congregation? To the governing board?

16. How would you define your relationship to the authority of your denomination (if you belong to one)?

17. Would you be willing to seek recognition of your ordained/licensed ministerial standing with the Evangelical Association (if not already recognized), and how long do you expect it would take to complete and submit the necessary paperwork?

18. How would you go about bringing change to our congregation’s ministry or way of conducting its work?

19. If a person comes to you who is not yet a Christian and wants to know how to become one, what would you do to facilitate their conversion to Christ?

### PRACTICAL MATTERS

1. What salary and benefits package adequately meets your needs?

2. How can we help you learn more about our community, schools, shopping, doctors, etc.?

3. Are you willing to voluntarily submit to a criminal background check?