**Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Session of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (church)

*Do you unreservedly recommend the above-named man as a “candidate for the gospel ministry?”* **YES NO**

*If you cannot do so unreservedly, please share you reasons below:*

*Has this man been a member of your congregation for at least six months, as required by BCO 18-2? (If no, please describe below what extraordinary situation would require waiving this requirement.)* **YES NO**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Moderator of Session) (Clerk of Session)

**This form was filled out by: ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Please underline or circle: ruling elder teaching elder*

Applicant must file this application with the chairman of the Pastoral Care Committee

**1.** Please comment on the applicant's **character in general.**

Think in terms of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Is he above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, hospitable…? Please provide as many examples as possible. (e.g. “One time he was teaching Sunday school when someone ‘asked’ an argumentative question. This candidate diffused the tense situation by…” Or, “I once confronted the candidate for offending me. He listened attentively, asked forgiveness, etc.” Or, “He was defensive, blame-shifting…”)

**2. Marriage & Family.**

What is the condition of this candidate's marriage? Has this couple found healthy ways to resolve conflicts? In what ways is the Gospel reflected in their home (family ministry, devotions, catechizing, etc.)?

Does this candidate's wife support his desire to seek ordination? Have you talked with his wife directly about this?

Are there any concerns regarding their children? Do they discipline their children properly? Are their children under control?

Are there any issues with either spouse’s family of origin which need to be taken into consideration?

**3. Sexual sin.**

Sexual sin, pornography in particular, is destroying pastoral ministries at an alarming rate. Has this candidate ever struggled with pornography or any other sexual sin? When did this behavior end? Is this candidate still struggling with any kind of sinful sexual behavior? If so, what, and how is the candidate being held accountable?

Do you know this candidate well enough to have confidence in these answers?

**4. Finances**

Please comment on this candidate’s current **financial situation**. How much debt does he have? Does he live within his means? Does he have a realistic budget? Is he committed to tithing?

**5. Christian Commitment**

Please comment on the applicant's **Christian commitment.** How has he served the church and the surrounding community? Does he show evidence of having a servant’s heart? Does he show a desire to learn from others and an ability to listen?

**6. Discipline and Perseverance**

Please comment on the applicant's **discipline and perseverance**. How does the candidate handle stressful situations (e.g., strained relationships, ill health, money problems)?

Is the candidate committed to personal transformation? Is he committed to do hard things to deal with sin in his life (e.g., ‘radical amputation’)?

**7. Emotional Stability**

Please comment on the applicant's **emotional stability**: Is the candidate generally content? Does he show a range of emotions (anger, joy, laughter, tears)? Does he know how to handle anger?

Has the candidate ever struggled with depression? When? What were the circumstances? Is this likely to be an ongoing issue?

Does the candidate struggle with “fear of man”? Does he compare himself with others? Does he share credit for “successes”? Is he critical of others?

Do you see signs of a sense of inferiority (insecurity, envy)? Superiority (thinks himself better than others)? How does the candidate handle criticism?

**8. Interpersonal Relationships**

Please comment on the applicant's **capacity to relate to people**. How do others relate to him and how does he relate to them?  (e.g., wife, children, friends, difficult people, unbelievers, authority figures, people he teaches, rich, poor, other races, etc.)

Is this candidate competitive? Have you played team sports with him or seen him play – how does he handle losing? Winning?

Does the candidate have the tendency to blow up? Does he have the tendency to clam up?

Is he able to graciously confront sin and error in others?

**9. Maturity**

**Please comment on the applicant's level of maturity**. What does the candidate view as his strengths and weaknesses? What do you view as his strengths and weaknesses? How do you account for any differences between his assessment and yours?

Is the candidate aware of his sin patterns? What is his besetting sin? How does he handle it?

Does the candidate follow through on commitments?

Assess the candidate’s sense of calling and how that fits his gifts. Are his gifts and sense of calling mismatched?

**10. Fruit of Ministry**

Please comment on the candidate’s **ministry experience.** Whatexperiences has he had (be specific – list ministry focus, dates, people involved, evaluation, etc.)?

Is he ‘able to teach’? How would you assess his preaching ability? Small group leadership?

Can he facilitate meetings?

Are there people who would testify to God’s work in their lives through this candidate?

**11. Evangelism**

Does this candidate have a heart for **evangelism**? Does he share his faith winsomely with others? Has this candidate led people to faith in Christ?

**12. Reservations**

**Would you have any reservations in recommending to our committee that they accept this applicant as a candidate?**  Would you serve alongside him as a fellow elder?  Would you respect him as your own pastor?