

The Certificate of Fitness for Ministry and RCA Vision 2020 Statement

As theological agents of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), *Western Theological Seminary*, *New Brunswick Theological Seminary*, and the *MFCA* grant the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry to *Master of Divinity* graduates in the ordination process for the RCA. The Certificate entitles its bearer to an examination for license and ordination. *You will find more information about the ordination and examination process [here](#).*

According to the Book of Church Order, "a student in the ordination process of the RCA who has received the degree of Master of Divinity from [*Western Theological Seminary, NBTS, or MFCA*], upon the completion of the prescribed course of theological studies, is found to be qualified and is adjudged to be a fit candidate for the ministry of Word and sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, shall receive from the General Synod through the board of trustees of an RCA seminary a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry, which is entitlement to an examination for licensure and ordination."

In light of the [Vision 2020 report of the RCA](#), and as a theological agent of the RCA accountable to the General Synod, Western Theological Seminary will defer the granting of the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry for an LGBTQ student in a partnered relationship until the Seminary receives further guidance from the General Synod, which is expected to meet in June 2021. This only affects the granting of the Certificate of Fitness for Ministry for students seeking ordination in the RCA.

Partner denominations that accept an M.Div. from Western Theological Seminary for ordination purposes are listed on the RCA website link and are listed below:

Denominational partners declared to be in full communion with the RCA include the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PC[USA]), the United Church of Christ (UCC), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).