



Session #86

## MEETING MINUTES

**THEME: Collaborative Relationships**

**Thursday, February 18, 2016**

**4:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

**EverGreen Ministries**

**4512 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Hudsonville, MI 49426**

**Officers of the Day**

**President: Rev. Gerry Koning  
Stated Clerk: Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen**

### Article 1

**Credentials:** Each church in classis submitted its credentials before this meeting, so every delegate received a name tag upon arrival. The Vision Team reviewed the credentials and will report later in the meeting.

### Article 2

#### **Delegates in attendance:**

#### **CHURCH**

Alive Ministries  
  
Baldwin Street  
Bauer  
Cottonwood Church

#### **PASTOR**

Terry Scholten  
Susan LaClear  
Jerry Van Groningen  
Tim Holwerda

#### **ELDER**

Conrad Vander Werf  
  
John De Bruin  
Rog Wittingen  
Dave Sjoerdsma  
Bob Lynema

#### **DEACONS**

Matt Voss  
Jared Schuitema

EverGreen Ministries Fairway	Larry Doornbos	Tom Kragt Paul Beebe Don Van Dyken	Bonnie Buit
First Hudsonville	David Jolman	Doug Krikke	John Bosscher
First Jenison	Adam Barton	Donald Wierenga	Al Arendsen
Forest Grove	Jeff Scripps	Everett De Fouw	Derek Van Dam
Friendship Chapel	Josh Benton	Catie Jasperse	Carol Rozema
Georgetown	Jack Dik	Preston Kallemeyn	Larry Oosterbaan
Hillcrest	Kevin Van Wyhe	Marc Zuiderveen	Kim Vande Vusse
Immanuel	Bob Huisman	Rob Nesky	Kevin Ver Merris
Jamestown	Dan Gritter	Rog Slagter	Steve Hekman
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Jim Van Dyke	Dale De Lange
Ridgewood	Len Kuyvenhoven	Roger Meekhof	Marcy Sterken
Searchlight Ministries	Stan Drenth	Don Wiersma	Kathy Snippe
Trinity	Gerry Koning	Jarod Aukeman	Kim Ghent
Twelfth Avenue	Mark Bennink	Merle Koops	Jack Buys
Zutphen	Josh Van Drunen	Vern Shoemaker	Craig Brouwer

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane VanderBrug Vision Team Chair/Facilitator	Kathy Jelsema Assistant Treasurer Web Keeper	Mel VanderBie Classis Treasurer
Dee VanHeuvelen Stated Clerk Vision Team/Admin. Ass't.	Tricia Bosma 10:24 Coordinator Alternate Stated Clerk	Andrew Ryskamp Retired Ex. Dir. World Renew
Rev. Ron Meyer Region 10 Representative CRWM	Dick Voetberg Disability Advocate Ottawa County	Karl Westerhof Classis Renewal CRCNA
Floyd Brouwer Baldwin Street	Ken Dornbos Baldwin Street	Barry Eisenga Bauer
Charlie Elgersma First Hudsonville	Jeff Horstman First Hudsonville	Steve Schnyders First Hudsonville
Marcia Jasperse Friendship Chapel	Bob Mastbergen Friendship Chapel	Jim Roskam Georgetown
Dan Lokker Jamestown	Audrey Geers Ridgewood	John Uken Ridgewood
Maya Warners Ridgewood	Melissa Dykema Trinity	Dave Baatenburg Twelfth Avenue

**Article 3:**

**A. Welcoming visitors and guests, Rev. Koning:**

1. President Koning welcomed the delegates and guests. These included Rev. Susan LaClear, newly installed Discipleship Pastor at Alive Ministries; Andrew Ryskamp, Retired Executive Director of World Renew; Rev. Ron Meyer, Region 10 Representative for CRWM; and Mr. Dick Voetberg, Advocate for people with disabilities in Ottawa County.

2. His devotional reading was from Acts 6:1-7. Included in his devotion were words of welcome for the deacons, who are seated for the first time. By including them and others in the work of the church, the church will grow again.
3. His opening prayer concluded that our goal should be Christ as our example.

**B. Introduction of Classis' Five Values for deacons benefit, Rev. Koning:**

1. The five Values adopted by Classis and their Value Stewards are:
  - a. **Healthy Leaders, Rev. Marc Nelesen**
  - b. **Collaborative Relationships, Rev. Larry Doornbos**
  - c. **Empowering Worship, Rev. Mark Bennink**
  - d. **Daring Hospitality, Rev. Dave Jolman**
  - e. **Risky Compassion, Rev. Gerry Koning**
2. Each of these values, in no particular order, is used as the theme for our classis meetings.

**C. Synod, summer of 2016, Rev. Koning:**

The delegates were reminded about the 3 critical issues before synod this summer. They are:

- Doctrine of Discovery
- Pastoral Guidance for Churches Regarding Same Sex Marriage
- The Report on Religious Persecution

**Article 4**

**A. Introduction of Synodical delegate voting, Rev. Koning:**

1. According to information from the Office of Synodical Services, each classis is to elect one pastor, one elder, one deacon, and one other (meaning pastor, elder, or deacon), and alternates for each position. To make the election simpler and to serve as a transition to doing this in a better way in the future, the following motion was introduced: **“Classis Georgetown shall delegate two ministers, one elder and one deacon to the 2016 Synod of the CRC.” Motion was made, seconded and carried.**
2. The results of the election are as follows: **Rev. Gerry Koning and Rev. Terry Scholten, pastor delegates; Mr. Jim Roskam, elder delegate; Ms. Melissa Dykema, deacon delegate. Alternates are Rev. Stan Drenth and Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven, pastors; Mr. Chris Bouma, elder; and Ms. Marcia Jasperse, deacon.**

**Article 5**

**A. Interviews, Rev. Koning and Rev. Doornbos:**

1. Rev. Koning interviewed **Rev. Ron Meyer**, the Region 10 representative on the CRWM Board. His responses to questions asked were that the merging of World Missions and Home Missions is moving along, but slowly; when people have a biblical world view it is a life-changing experience; and his son Ben Meyer, is training dozens of pastors.

Prayer was offered for the work of World Missions.

2. Rev. Doornbos interviewed **Rev. Bob Huisman**, Immanuel CRC, about their church planting goals. Each year the Sunday nearest to the anniversary of the church is designated as Church Planting Sunday. Their goal for 2016 is to partner with a church planter who will plant a church in Guatemala City; for 2018 to partner with a church planter to plant a church in Presidential Estates in Hudsonville; and for 2020 to partner with a church planter to plant a new church in Classis Georgetown. Prayer was offered for Bob and Immanuel Church.

## Article 6

### Report from First Jenison, Rev. Adam Barton, reporting:

Some things to note:

- For every beginning there is an end
- First Jenison ministered in this community for 141 years
- Not a death, but a transformation
- A special service will be held on the third Sunday evening in June and all are invited to this service of thanks and praise
- Need to keep an emphasis on God's goodness and faithfulness
- Projected date of close is the last Sunday in June
- Possible merging with Baldwin Street CRC
- They appreciate Classis support
- Rev. Jerry Van Groningen offered prayer for Adam and First Jenison

## Article 7

### A. Standing reports:

#### 1. Financial Report, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, Treasurer, reporting:

After a brief overview, **motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.**

#### 2. Regional Pastors Report, Rev. Huisman reporting:

- a. Reminded pastors of services available through Pine Rest.
- b. He prayed for **Rev. Brian Bosscher's wife, Judy**, who has just been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, **Rev. Matt Palsrok**, who is absent tonight because of undiagnosed pain, and others with known needs.

#### 3. Credentials Report, Rev. Doornbos reporting:

Credentials were received from all of the churches. A few churches reported on ongoing 10:24 contacts, and all credentials are in order.

#### 4. Stated Clerk's report, Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen reporting:

- a. **The Vision Team approved the transfer of credentials of Rev. Dan Gritter from First Cutlerville CRC, Classis Grand Rapids South to Jamestown CRC, Classis Georgetown.**

- b. The Vision Team approved the transfer of credentials of Rev. Susan LaClear from Maranatha Fellowship, Farmington, NM, Classis Red Mesa, to Alive Ministries, Classis Georgetown.
  - c. The Vision Team approved the appointments of Rev. Mark Bennink as Synodical Deputy, and Rev. Matt Palsrok as Alternate Synodical Deputy.
  - d. All of the above information was included in the written report.
  - e. Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.
5. **Vision Team Report, Rev. Koning reporting:**
- a. Strong Tower, a church plant among Somalian people, is doing well.
  - b. Gerry gave an example of how ministry in a local church in our classis can make an impact in transforming lives and communities on the other side of the world. The pastor of this church, Ernest Emoh, and his wife, Emmi, were married in Nigeria some years ago. Since the local customs of Emmi's village were not followed there have been unresolved problems for many years. After funds were collected here and gifts sent back to Nigeria, the village chief allowed them to be married "in absentia." Close to 1,000 people heard a message from an evangelist about Jonah, the city of Nineveh, and repentance. The village chief accepted Christ as his Savior, as did about 100 more people. God's grace was evident as people thousands of miles apart worked together.
  - c. Gerry closed the afternoon session with prayer, and we proceeded to dinner.

#### **Article 8**

**Dinner hour**

#### **Article 9**

**After dinner event, Rev. Doornbos reporting:**

The delegates joined with several other council members over dinner, and the group then listened to a power point presentation by Rev. Doornbos on the topic of mandates for Elders and Deacons: **Deacons – People of Micah 6:8, Elders – People of The Book.**

#### **Article 10**

Rev. Doornbos closed the meeting with prayer.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee VanHeuvelen*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**Please Note:**

- A. All matters and requests for speaking at classis or that classis may consider, must be sent to the Stated Clerk, Dee VanHeuvelen, at [classisgt@i2k.com](mailto:classisgt@i2k.com), at **least two months (March 26, 2016) before the next classis meeting on May 26, 2016.**
- B. Next classis meetings:  
**May 26, 2016, theme will be Risky Compassion, time and location tbd**  
**September 15, 2016**