



Session #82

MEETING MINUTES

THEME: Daring Hospitality

Thursday, February 19, 2015

4:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Trinity Christian Reformed Church (Basement)

0-60 Port Sheldon Road

Grandville, MI 49418

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. David Den Haan

Rev. Gerry Koning

Stated Clerk: Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen

I. Prior meeting activity

Article 1

- A. Pre-Classis Exercise:** The following two questions were to be discussed in each church council's meeting prior to this meeting:
1. What are 2-3 successes your congregation has had in the area of hospitality?
 2. What is your congregation's greatest struggle when it comes to welcoming the stranger?
- B. Credentials:** Each delegate received a name tag on arrival. Delegates attending Classis Georgetown for the first time signed the Covenant for Officebearers. This constituted the "Calling of the Roll." Thanks to all of the churches for sending in their credentials electronically before the meeting.

Article 2

Delegates in attendance:

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CHURCH

Alive Ministries
Baldwin Street
Bauer
Cottonwood Church
EverGreen Ministries
Fairway
First Hudsonville
First Jenison

Forest Grove
Friendship Chapel
Georgetown
Hillcrest
Immanuel
Jamestown

Messiah
Ridgewood

Searchlight Ministries
Trinity
Twelfth Avenue
Zutphen

PASTOR

Terry Scholten
Jerry Van Groningen
Tim Holwerda
Matthew Palsrok
Larry Doornbos
David Den Haan
David Jolman

Jeffrey Scripps
Josh Benton
Marc Nelesen
Kevin Van Wyhe
Bob Huisman

Dan Gritter
Len Kuyvenhoven
Nancy Boote
Stan Drenth
Gerry Koning
Mark Bennink
Joshua Van Drunen

ELDER

Conrad Vander Werf
Floyd Brouwer
Henry Vos
Dave Sjoerdsma
Tom Kragt
Mike Koop
Charlie Elgersma
Calvin Sall
Donald Wierenga
Ron Koedam
Shaun Vander Lugt
Jim Roskam
Doug Holtrop
Shelby Gemmen
Rog Slagter
Ben Harkema
Jack Englesman
Will Nieboer

Don Wiersma
Dave Oosterman
Merle Koops
Terry Ver Hage

Other persons attending Classis:

Mr. Mel Vander Bie
Classis Treasurer

Ms. Tricia Bosma
10:24 Coordinator

Rev. Ron Meyer
CRWM Representative

Ms. Kathy Jelsema
Ass't. Treasurer, Web Keeper

Ms. Sam Huizenga
CR Home Missions Coach

Members of the Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church,
P.O. Box 9502, Wyoming, MI 40509

Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen
Stated Clerk

Ms. Dee Obrecht
Criminal Justice Chap.

II. Welcome and Worship

Article 3

We are invited into worship: members of the Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church began by singing in the Dinka language accompanied by instruments that are used in their worship services, Rev. Dave Jolman, Value Steward of Daring Hospitality introduced the theme, Rev. Gerry Koning led us in prayer, and then we joined together in singing in English, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," with Sudanese rhythm.

III. Welcoming the Stranger

Article 4

We learn how to better welcome the stranger: Ms. Sam Huizenga, Home Mission's Coach, presented information to the delegates and guests about some different aspects of practicing hospitality, and what it means that the churches of Classis Georgetown are sent, and how we can offer hospitality to the stranger in our midst. Two books recommended on this topic were "B.L.E.S.S." by Dave Ferguson, and "Bells" by Michael Frost.

IV. Dinner Hour

Dinner was cooked and served by members of the Sudanese Church and included foods native to their home country. A great deal of fellowship occurred during the dinner hour between the two groups of people as we learned many new things about each other.

V. We continue the work of Classis

Article 5

A. President Den Haan began this session with 3 items:

1. He introduced Ms. Dee Obrecht, the newly appointed Executive Director of Criminal Justice Chaplaincy.
2. He asked for and received two volunteers to pray later in the meeting.
3. He began with prayer for this portion of our meeting.

B. Election of Synodical delegates:

1. The following pastors were elected to represent Class Georgetown at the June meeting of Synod of the CRCNA: First Pastor Delegate, Rev. David Den Haan; Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Gerry Koning; First Pastor Alternate, Rev. Brian Bosscher; Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Jack Dik.
2. The following elders were elected: First Elder Delegate, Mr. Shelby Gemmen; Second Elder Delegate, Mr. Ron Koedam; First Elder Alternate, Ms. Robin Schreur; Second Elder Alternate, Mr. Rog Slagter.

C. Vision Team Report, Rev. Gerry Koning reporting:

1. The Theme for the May meeting is Empowering Worship and for the September meeting is Collaborative Relationships.
2. We can all learn from Trinity's experience with the Sudanese Church.
3. One church cannot do this alone, we need to work together as a Classis. By 2017 we would like to see a different, more hospitable, community in Classis Georgetown.

D. Motion from Hillcrest CRC:

That Classis Georgetown reverse its decision of September 18, 2014, to approve the retirement of Rev. Humberto Casanova, and rather, accept his resignation from ministry in the CRCNA according to Church Order Article 14-c, with the status being "honorably released."

Grounds:

1. Such an action of "resigning in order to enter upon a non-ministerial vocation" accurately describes what actually happened over a decade ago when Rev. Casanova left his work at the CRC World Literature Ministries.
2. Such an action is an appropriate and gracious act on the part of Hillcrest CRC, Classis Georgetown and the denomination as a whole in view of the less than optimal level of connection we have had with him over the past decade.
3. Such an action complies with recent advice from the CRC Pension office and other advisors as it pertains to pension options for Rev. Casanova.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

- #### E. Friendship Chapel presented an overture regarding the proper procedure to follow when dealing with non-ordained staff people. They asked to have this approved by Classis Georgetown and then presented to Synod. They have requested that a study committee be formed by Synod to address the issue. **Motion was made and seconded, but not approved.**

F. Regional Pastors report, Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Bob Huisman reporting:

1. Pine Rest program is going very well with several ministry persons and/or family members utilizing their services.
2. Our regional pastors are considering another book club.
3. Our regional pastors are trying to keep in contact with all pastors, but if a need arises, please call them.

4. A Whitecaps Game night out for pastors and families is in the planning stages.
5. The regional pastors encouraged other pastors to remember that they are with them on this journey.
6. After these reports, Rev. Jeff Scripps prayed for the pastors, and Rev. Josh Benton prayed for the churches

G. Church 10:24 Team updates:

The church teams of Hillcrest and First Jenison, and Fairway and Searchlight have had some activity. Please check with them for more details. Churches were encouraged to pursue the Encouragement Team partnerships that were presented at the classis meeting of February 20, 2014, and approved at the classis meeting of May 15, 2014.

H. Church Counselor Reports:

The written reports from Jamestown CRC, Messiah CRC, and First Jenison were received for information.

I. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Stan Drenth reporting:

The team is looking for advice on two items as it formulates policy:

1. Guidelines are needed to determine who is eligible for loans; full or part time students and those planning to enter ordained or non-ordained ministry.
2. Is there a possibility of full or partial loan forgiveness for those who go into ministry in sister churches (RCA or EPC)?

There are a large number of applicants for this coming year.

J. Financial Report, Mel Vander Bie, reporting:

A positive and encouraging report was presented regarding the classis' financial health.

Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.

K. Stated Clerk report, Dee VanHeuvelen, reporting:

Nothing additional was added to the written report, which was distributed with the agenda.

Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.

L. Credentials report, Will Nieboer and Dee VanHeuvelen reporting:

The request from Ridgewood CRC for the retirement of Rev. Joel Boot was passed to the Vision Team for action.

VI. Closing moments

Article 6

President Den Haan read from 3 John and then closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30 PM.

VII. Scheduling

Please Note

- A All matters and requests for speaking at Classis or matters classis may consider, must be sent to the Stated Clerk, Dee Van Heuvelen, at classisqt@i2k.com, at least two months (March 21, 2015) before the next classis meeting in May.

- B. Next classis meetings:

May 21, 2015, theme will be Empowering Worship, time and location tbd

September 17, 2015, theme will be Collaborative Relationships, time and location tbd

Respectfully submitted,

Dee VanHeuvelen

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown