



Session #79

## MEETING MINUTES

**THEME: Celebration of 25 years of Classis Georgetown!**

**Thursday, February 20, 2014**

4:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Sunnybrook Country Club  
624 Port Sheldon Road  
Grandville, MI 49418**

### Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Dave Den Haan  
Vice president: Rev. Matt Palsrok  
Stated Clerk: Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen

### I. Prior meeting activity

#### Article 1

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." All of the churches sent in their credentials prior to the meeting.

#### Article 2

The following are the delegates in attendance:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>ELDER</u>
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Tom Waterloo
Baldwin Street	Jerry Van Groningen	Paul Mellema
Bauer	Tim Holwerda	Doug De Went
Cottonwood Heights	Matthew Palsrok	Bernie Vander Klok
EverGreen Ministries	Larry Doornbos	Rick Kennedy
Fairway	David Den Haan	Dan Baker
First Hudsonville	David Jolman	Harry VanderBrug
First Jenison	Adam Barton	Calvin Sall
Forest Grove	Jeffrey Scripps	Bob Meyer
Friendship Chapel	Josh Benton	Bob Mastbergen
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Dan Miedema
Hillcrest		John Schout
		John Van Abbema

Immanuel  
Jamestown  
Messiah  
Ridgewood  
Searchlight  
Trinity  
Twelfth Avenue  
Zutphen

Bob Huisman  
Ron Fynewever  
Dan Gritter  
Len Kuyvenhoven  
Stan Drenth  
Gerry Koning  
Mark Bennink  
Joshua Van Drunen

Robert Nesky  
Dave Brinks  
Don Veltman  
Harold Postma  
Tom Timmermans  
Dave Oosterman  
Merle Koops  
Terry VerHage

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug  
Transition Team Chair/Facilitator

Mel Vander Bie  
Classis Treasurer

Kathy Jelsema  
Ass't. Treasurer, Web Keeper

Tricia Bosma  
10:Coordinator

Eileen Zwart  
Classis Safe Church Ministry

Dee VanHeuvelen  
Stated Clerk

Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf  
Ex. Dir., Criminal Justice Chap.

Rev. Marv Vander Vliet  
Juvenile Justice Ministries/YFC

## II. Welcome

### Article 3

- A. Rev. Dave Den Haan, president of Classis, welcomed all in attendance. He then opened with prayer. The meeting was constituted.
- B. President Den Haan then introduced the following pastors: Rev. Leonard Kuyvenhoven, newly installed pastor at Ridgewood CRC, Rev. Larry Doornbos, returning pastor to EverGreen Ministries, Rev. Dan Gritter, interim pastor at Messiah CRC, and Rev. Ron Fynewever, interim pastor at Jamestown CRC.

## We worship in celebration together

### III. Worship

#### Article 4

- A. Rev. Josh Van Drunen led the group in worship with a litany of Scripture, followed by singing several songs, and he also served as accompanist on the keyboard.
- B. Rev. Van Drunen shared a meditation on Matthew 9:16-17, about preserving new wine in new wineskins, comparing this to the "new" classis being preserved in a new structure.
- C. This was followed by the service of Holy Communion, using the passage of I Corinthians 10:16-17 as the verses for meditation. This was followed by singing "In Christ Alone."

## We work in celebration together

### IV. Work

#### Article 5

- A. Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven introduced the overture from Ridgewood CRC that was presented to Classis at the September 19, 2013, meeting, and on advice of the Transition Team was now open for discussion and action. The overture reads as follows: **The council of Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church (Classis Georgetown) hereby overtures Classis Georgetown to allow seating of women as voting representatives for all future Classis meetings. This is to include any women pastors, elders, and deacon representatives appropriately designated and credentialed by their respective councils. This policy is to be instituted for all future scheduled Classis Georgetown meetings.** After an adequate time of discussion, **motion was MSC to accept this overture as presented by a large majority vote.** This was followed by prayer.

- B. Mr. Harold Postma, elder delegate from Ridgewood CRC presented the following proposal from the Ridgewood CRC council: **that Classis Georgetown approve the petition for the formal organization of Alive Ministries within the Christian Reformed Church of North America.** Rev. Terry Scholten, pastor at Alive, was introduced and gave a short presentation about the growth and depth of commitment of the members, some of ways they make disciples both within and outside of the church, the structure, and the financial situation. **Motion was MSC unanimously that Alive Ministries become a formally organized congregation within the Christian Reformed Church in North America.** Rev. Adam Barton, Interim Pastor at First Jenison CRC, offered a prayer on behalf of Alive.

## V. Supper Hour

### Article 6

- A. Pre-meal prayer was done at our tables of 8.
- B. A buffet dinner was enjoyed with much positive conversation occurring.
- C. Voting for the election of both pastors and elders as delegates to synod took place during dinner.

## We enjoy a video and worship in celebration together

## VI. Worship and reflections

### Article 7

- A. The group enjoyed a video put together by Rev. Van Drunen. It was a montage of all of the classis churches, with a background of music.,
- B. All participated in a litany from Colossians 3:14-16, followed by community prayer at the tables, sharing verses from Ephesians 2:19-22, and ending with singing "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing."
- C. President Den Haan introduced Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf, Executive Director of Criminal Justice Chaplaincy (one of our grant recipients), who will be retiring after 33 years; Ms. Eileen Zwart, the Classis Georgetown Safe Ministry representative; thanked Rev. Van Drunen for his many years of service in forming the "new Classis," and who will now fill the role of Classis Meeting Planner. President Den Haan was also thanked for his long-time involvement in shaping the new classis.

## We work again in celebration together

## VII. Team Reports:

### Article 8

- A. **Transition Team, Rev. Gerry Koning reporting:**
  - 1. The renewing of classis has been a five year project. If classis is going to work together well, it will take some time.
  - 2. **The Transition Team has completed its work and its successor will be known as the Vision Team. Rev. Duane VanderBrug will be The Chair/Facilitator, and the five Value Stewards and their specific areas of responsibility are:**  
**Rev. Marc Nelesen, Healthy Leaders; Rev. Larry Doornbos, Collaborative Relationships; Rev. Mark Bennink, Empowering Worship; Rev. Dave Jolman, Daring Hospitality; Rev. Gerry Koning, Risky Compassion. Motion was MSC to implement the Vision Team.** Each steward will develop his own team, and all functions and roles of classis will be included in these five teams. Prayer for these stewards followed.
- B. **Regional Co-Pastors, Rev. Bob Huisman and Rev. Nelesen reporting:**
  - 1. **MSC to reintroduce the proposal from the co-pastors that was tabled at the September 2014 Class meeting.**
  - 2. Discussion considered adding some funding for this position so it is valued. The time involved by the regional co-pastors varies from situation to situation.

3. The following five recommendations were made by the Transition Team:
  - a. That the Revs. Marc Nelesen and Bob Huisman be appointed as Classis Georgetown's regional co-pastors.
  - b. That they report to the Vision Team at each of its monthly meetings.
  - c. That their initial term of office be two years subject to renewal.
  - d. That their tasks include the core responsibilities as outlined above and guided by the CRC's written job descriptions.
  - e. That classis budget in fiscal 2014 \$2,000 for expenses (materials, lunches, activities, books, etc.) and \$7,000 total honoraria (subject to taxes) for both regional pastors in recognition that this ministry is important like other "above and beyond" normal classical roles (e.g. stated clerk, treasurer, and assistant treasurer).
4. **Motion was MSC to accept all five recommendations as stated.** This was followed by prayer for Revs. Huisman and Nelesen.

**C. Dreams, by Rev. Koning:**

~Rev. Koning mentioned that his church has a sister church in Detroit. At a recent meeting they shared their dreams together for the churches. He has written his dreams about Classis Georgetown, which he shared with those attending this meeting. This presentation was well received and he was prayed for by Rev. Van Drunen.

**Executive Session begins**

**D. Jamestown CRC, Rev. Bob Huisman, reporting:**

1. Rev. Huisman asked for and was granted an executive session to report on the situation at Jamestown and Rev. Steve Hasper.
2. The Immanuel council recommends that the Rev. Hasper be eligible for a call effective April 6, 2014.  
**Motion was MSC to accept this recommendation.**

**Executive Session ends**

**E. 10:24, Ms. Tricia Bosma, reporting:**

- ~all of the churches in Classis Georgetown have been paired by lot in groups of 2 for mutual edification and are known as Encouragement Teams
- ~these teams will listen and encourage one another for the next 2 years
- ~any concerns may be brought to either Ms. Bosma or Rev. Brian Bosscher before April 1.

**VIII. Other church business**

**Article 9**

**A. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Tim Holwerda, reporting:**

1. Please note correction from the minutes of September 19, 2013, Article 5, D. 2: Steve Mann will be receiving \$3,000 and Rob De Graff will be receiving \$2,500 for this year. These numbers were transposed in the September minutes.
2. All six of the present students will continue to be supported: Rick Boomsma, Rob De Graff, Steve Mann, Cory Nederveld, Greg Vander Horn, and Cody Zuiderveen.
3. Rev. Stan Drenth will be joining this committee as chair to replace Rev. Holwerda, and Rev. Jeff Scripps will be joining as a committee member. Rev. Holwerda offered prayers for the students and the committee.

**B. Finance Committee, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reporting:**

~the budget continues to be in better shape than it has been, and churches are encouraged to continue to send in their ministries shares for classis expenses and ministries

**C. Clerk's Report, Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen, reporting:**

- ~a list was given to each church indicating the pastors for whom it holds credentials, and to inform the Stated Clerk of any changes
- ~another list was given to all of the churches indicating what, if any, records are missing from the Archives of the CRCNA, and to respond to this request
- ~**Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Clerk**

**D. Synodical delegates:**

- ~the delegates that were elected to Synod 2014, are Rev. Josh Van Drunen, First Pastor delegate; Rev. Jeff Scripps, Second Pastor delegate; Rev. Matt Palsrok, First Pastor Alternate; Rev. Larry Doornbos, Second Pastor Alternate; and Mr. Carl Wiersum, First Elder delegate. Prayers were offered for these delegates.
- ~The Vision Team will need to appoint three more elder delegates.

**Article 10**

**A. Closing remarks:**

- ~Our next meeting will be held on May 15, 2014 at Immanuel CRC in Hudsonville, at a time to be determined. The theme will be Healthy Leadership. Deadline for submission of agenda items to Rev. Josh Van Drunen is April 3, 2014
- ~All churches are reminded about the Classis wide worship service to be held on March 9, 2014 at Fair Haven Reformed Church, located on the corner of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Baldwin in Jenison. The service begins at 5:30 PM.
- ~our meeting was closed with the words of Hebrews 10:24-25, the benediction, and singing a cappella "You Servants of the Lord Our God"

**We Depart for Work and Worship in God's Kingdom**

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee VanHeuvelen*

Stated Clerk  
Classis Georgetown