



Session #80

MEETING MINUTES

THEME: Healthy Leaders

Thursday, May 15, 2014

4:00 PM to 7:45 PM

Immanuel Christian Reformed Church

3520 Kiel Street

Hudsonville, MI 49426

Officers of the Day

President before dinner: Rev. Dave Den Haan

President after dinner: 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

Delegates in attendance:

CHURCH

Alive Ministries
Baldwin Street
Bauer
Cottonwood Heights
EverGreen Ministries
Fairway

First Hudsonville
First Jenison
Forest Grove
Friendship Chapel
Georgetown
Hillcrest

PASTOR

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

David Jolman
Adam Barton
Jeffrey Scripps
Josh Benton
Marc Nelesen
Brian Bosscher

ELDER

Conrad Vander Werf
Rich Meyer
Rog Wittingen

Tom Kragt
Mark Dykema
Steve Helder
Gary De Haan
Wayne Haverdink
Andy Hibma
Robin Schreur
Michael Kotman
Richard Brummel

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

Cal Dyk
Jeff Schierbeek
Jay Van Dyken
Harold Postma

Doug Steketee
James Evenhouse
Vern Shoemaker

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug
Vision Team Chair/Facilitator

Mel Vander Bie
Classis Treasurer

Kathy Jelsema
Ass't. Treasurer, Web Keeper

Dee VanHeuvelen
Stated Clerk

Rog Slagter
Regional Disability Advocate

Josh Shaarda
Commissioned Pastor, Uganda

Denise Posie
Pastor-Church Relations

Holly Koons
Pastor-Church Relations

II. Welcome

Article 3

- A. Rev. Dave Den Haan, president of Classis, welcomed all in attendance and constituted the meeting.
- B. The credentials were reviewed by Elder Jay Van Dyken, Messiah CRC, and Rev. Brian Bosscher, Hillcrest CRC, and a report was given to President Den Haan that was shared with delegates later in the meeting.
- C. President Den Haan asked for volunteers to pray at points in the meeting, and Rev. Jeff Scripps volunteered to pray for the ministry of Pastor-Church relations while Rev. Mark Bennink volunteered to pray for a blessing on our meal.

Learning about healthy leaders

III. Healthy Leaders

Article 4

- A. Rev. Bob Huisman, Regional Co-Pastor, provided the delegates with a summary of what makes leaders healthy and this served as our devotions for the meeting.
- B. Rev. Marc Nelesen, Regional Co-Pastor, explained a new program that is offered from Pine Rest to Classis Georgetown pastors who are hurting, lonely, and tired. Some benefits are also offered to the families of pastors, including limited visits with no charge. An annual minimal fee from Classis will cover these costs. Services are available June 1, 2014.
- C. This proposal was approved by the Vision Team.
- D. Denise Posie and Holly Koons, both from the CRC Pastor-Church Relations Office, gave a presentation on healthy leaders, including contributing dynamics, the effects on resources, and the phases of Pastor-Church involvement. Rev. Scripps offered a prayer for this ministry after their presentation.
- F. Josh Shaarda, Commissioned Pastor from Uganda, spoke to Classis about his work there and also some of the medical challenges his family is facing. By being a Commissioned Pastor, he is authorized to perform baptisms, and provide the Lord's Supper. This is helping to make him a more healthy leader in his ministry. Following his presentation, Rev. Josh Benton offered a prayer of blessings on Josh for his ministry and for the health of his family.
- E. Rev. Nelesen handed out cards to the delegates before dinner. All pastors were asked to address the following: What are some of the greatest challenges you face related to your work? Or put another way, what do you wish your church leaders knew and understood about the challenges and difficulties of your work? All elders were asked to respond to the following: What are some of the greatest challenges of being a pastor? Or yet another way, what are the stressors for pastors that make their work particularly challenging? Discussion will take place after dinner.

Fellowship over dinner, then return to work

IV. Dinner Hour

Article 5

- A. Voting was completed for the CRHM Board member and results were sent to the Office of Synodical Services where they will be added to the results of the five other classes in Regions 10.
- B. Rev. Gerry Koning presented the report from the Vision Team for information. He explained that the Vision Team is doing what it can to help the pastors and delegates make their churches better.
- C. Rev. Stan Drenth reported for the Student Fund Committee. His report included the names of 8 students that will be receiving financial support for the next school year, for a total amount of \$25,000, a small increase over this year. **Motion was made, seconded, and approved to support the work of the Student Fund Committee.**
- D. The group returned to the exercises they were working on before dinner. Rev. Marc Nelesen provided a printed summary of the responses from pastors listing the challenges they face in their work, and the responses from the elders present, listing the challenges they think pastors face daily. After a time of discussion around the tables, reporters from all of the tables were asked to share briefly what their particular table discussed. The consensus was that this was a very beneficial exercise and pointed out the myriad of challenges that affect the "health" of pastoral leaders.
- E. **EverGreen Ministries requested Classis to approve the honorable emeritation of the Rev. David Stravers per Article 18 of the Church Order, with an effective date of May 10, 2014. Motion was made, seconded and carried.** Rev. Stravers has served the CRC for approximately 38 years and was thanked for his service.
- F. **Friendship Chapel, per its credentials, requested Classis to approve the honorable emeritation of the Rev. Jeff Stam per Article 18 of the Church Order, with an effective date of May 31, 2014. Motion was MSC.** Rev. Stam was thanked for his 38 years of service to the CRC.
- G. **The 10:24 Encouragement Team Proposal was presented for a vote. Information was presented at our February meeting, and now this plan will be implemented. Motion was MSC to adopt this plan.**
- H. Treasurer Mel Vander Bie presented a financial report. He is able to keep enough funds in the account to pay the bills. **Motion was MSC to approve the Financial Report.**
- I. In the Stated Clerk report sent prior as an attachment the following was recorded. **The council of the Immanuel Christian Reformed Church has recommended that the Rev. Stephen Hasper's credentials be sent to the Saugatuck Christian Reformed Church, Classis Holland, to which he has accepted a call, effective April 8, 2014. Motion was MSC to approve this transfer.** In the oral Stated Clerk's report, Acknowledgement was given to the delegates to Synod 2014. They are the Rev. Josh Van Drunen, 1st Pastor Delegate; the Rev. Jeff Scripps, 2nd Pastor Delegate; Mr. Carl Wiersum, 1st Elder Delegate; and Mrs. Robin Schreur, 2nd Elder Delegate. Rev. Josh Benton offered prayer for them, as they travel and as they represent Classis Georgetown. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**

Things to remember

V. Noteworthy items

Article 6

- A. Delegates were reminded about the letter from the Vision Team to church councils concerning Ministry Shares. Responses are requested by May 23, 2014, and can be sent to the Stated Clerk at classisgt@i2k.com.
- B. All matters and requests for speaking at Classis or matters classis should consider need to be sent to the Stated Clerk, Dee Van Heuvelen, at classisgt@i2k.com, at least two months before the next classis meeting.

Article 7

A. Next classis meetings:

September 18, 2014, theme will be Risky Compassion, time and location tbd

February 19, 2015, theme will be Daring Hospitality, time and location tbd

B. Rev. Matt Palsrok, our evening President, closed the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Dee VanHeuvelen

Stated Clerk
Classis Georgetown