



Session #76

WORSHIP MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Harbor House Ministries

The Cove

919 – 44th Street

Jenison, Michigan 49428

Officers of the Day

President.....Rev. Gerry Koning

Classis Meeting Recorder..... Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen

I. Prior meeting activity

Article 1

Each delegate receives a name tag on arrival, which lists name, church membership, and the name of the building where each person will be eating dinner with the Harbor House residents. Delegates attending Classis Georgetown for the first time signed the Covenant for Officebearers. This constitutes the "Calling of the Roll." Churches that have not previously sent their credentials provide them at this time.

Article 2

The credentials are given to the delegates from First Hudsonville Christian Reformed Church who serve as the Credentials Committee. They will report later in the meeting.

Article 3

The following are the delegates in attendance:

CHURCH

Alive Ministries
Baldwin Street
Bauer
Cottonwood Heights
EverGreen Ministries
Fairway
First Hudsonville
First Jenison
Forest Grove

PASTOR

Terry Scholten
Jerry Van Groningen
Tim Holwerda
Matthew Palsrok

David Den Haan
David Jolman
Adam Barton
Jeffrey Scripps

ELDER

Mel Vander Bie
Floyd Brouwer
John Boelema
John Vander Molen
Rick Kennedy
Al Wiersema
Gary De Haan
Gordon Mast
Bob Meyer

Friendship Chapel
Georgetown
Hillcrest
Immanuel
Jamestown
Messiah
Ridgewood
Searchlight
Trinity
Twelfth Avenue

Leonard Troast
Jack Dik
Brian Bosscher
Robert Huisman
Steven Hasper
Terry Genzink

Stan Drenth
Gerald Koning

Zutphen

Joshua Van Drunen

Mike Kotman
Bruce Applebach
Jack Vander Ploeg
Dave Brinks
Don Veltman
Bernie Winkle
Bruce Tanis
Doug Steketee
Del Dykstra
Russ Brummel
Jack Elgersma

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug Kathy Jelsema
Transition Team Chair/Facilitator Assistant Treasurer

Dee Van Heuvelen
Interim State Clerk

II. Welcome and Opening Worship

Article 4

- Rev. Gerry Koning, president of Classis, welcomed all in attendance. He specifically thanked Ms. Peggy Driesenga, representing Harbor House Ministries, for the use of their facilities today. Peggy then welcomed the delegates.
- President Koning explained our theme of Risky Compassion to the delegates, and noted how we need to have compassion for those who are not part of the regular crowd.
- President Koning's text for his devotions was Luke 14:1-6. This was followed by singing two songs "We Will Extol You, God and King" and "Beautiful One," accompanied by Rev. Josh Van Drunen on the keyboard.

III. Promoting Healthy Leaders

Article 5

- Classis reviewed the Job Description of Mr. Josh Shaarda for the position of Commissioned Pastor according to Church Order Article 23 as recommended by Georgetown CRC. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried (MSC) to approve this job description with the understanding that a note will be added to this job description that upon the examination of Josh Shaarda by Classis Georgetown, his job description will include the privilege of preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.** Classis received the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies Rev. Henry Admiraal, Rev. Ronald D. De Young and Rev. David Struyk.
- Since Josh will not be returning from Uganda until May 2014, **motion was MSC to hold a Classis Contracta via Skype to examine Josh within the next three months.**
- Classis reviewed the Job Description of Mr. Cory Nederveld for the position of Commissioned Pastor according to Church Order Article 23 as recommended by Cottonwood Church. **Motion was MSC to approve this job description.** Classis received the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies Rev. Henry Admiraal, Rev. Ronald D. De Young and Rev. David Struyk.
- The Classical Examination of Mr. Cory Nederveld was conducted by Rev. Brian Bosscher. Cory is presently licensed to exhort through Calvin Seminary and therefore a preaching evaluation was not a part of his exam.
- **A motion was made and seconded to accept Cory for the position of Commissioned Pastor.**
- After discussion of this motion, President Koning called for an Executive Session. **The motion was then carried to accept Cory for the position of Commissioned Pastor.**
- Rev. Matt Palsrok offered prayer for Cory, his wife, and his mother, who were in attendance for this part of the Classis meeting.

IV. Promoting Risky Compassion

Article 6

- Rev. Mark Stephenson, representing CRCNA/Disability Concerns, gave a short presentation on this topic.
- Rev. Stephenson prayed for the needs of those less-abled and for the meal we were about to share together.
- President Koning dismissed the delegates for dinner with the Harbor House residents. Each delegate had an assigned place to eat and to fellowship as guests of the residents.

V. Deeper Journey Retreats

Article 7

- Rev. Jack Dik reported on the retreat experience of Deeper Journey. Revs. Brian Bosscher, Bob Huisman and Tim Holwerda have all experienced these retreats. There are eight quarterly retreats over a two year period. They are designed for pastors, elders, deacons, and other ministry staff for the purpose of having a well-tended soul. Information was handed out, and is also available from any of the above named pastors.

VI. Classis Reports

Article 8

Transition Team:

- Rev. Dave Den Haan reported for the Transition Team and suggested that in Classis Georgetown we sometimes act like the biggest competition we have is each other. Ways to overcome this are by reconnecting with each other and *collaborating* in the work we are doing.
- Rev. Den Haan handed out the Job Description form for positions in our classis. He reviewed the positions and mentioned that the goal is to have every pastor and/or elder fill one out.
- After a time of reflection on the Job Description Report, delegates were encouraged to consider the information, then fill out and return the response forms to the Interim Stated Clerk.

Treasurer's Report:

- Mr. Mel Vander Bie, Classis treasurer, reported that receipts are gradually improving and so far this year we are doing well on our expenses. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.**

- **Interim Stated Clerk's Report:**

Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen reported that the changes occurring in this role are part of the ongoing transition in Classis Georgetown. This is an interim position until after the September classis meeting. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Interim Stated Clerk.**

- **Student Fund Report:**

Rev. Tim Holwerda, Student Fund Committee Chairperson, reported that two students will be part time at Calvin Seminary, and two will be full time, one at Calvin Seminary and one at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Student Fund Committee.**

- The Student Fund Committee also reports that, though his term expired at the start of 2013, Rev. Steve Hasper will continue on with the Student Fund Committee until the Transition Team is ready to recommend a replacement for him. This is in response to a decision from our February meeting of classis in which we extended his term until our May meeting. **A motion was MSC to approve this.**

- **Reports from churches in transition—First Jenison, Ridgewood, Friendship Chapel, Evergreen Ministries, and Alive Ministries:**

First Jenison, Rev. Adam Barton, Interim Pastor, reports that they have completed *40 Days of Prayer*, had an Ascension Day worship service, will celebrate their 138th Anniversary, and have made use of a 10:24 Team. They are thankful for the time and support of Classis Georgetown.

Ridgewood, Elder Bernie Winkle reported that they are going through a complex time of reevaluation, after losing three pastors in a relatively short time. Dr. Dave Dethmers, an RCA pastor, has been serving as Interim Pastor. They have hired Dr. Nancy Boote, an RCA pastor, as Pastor of Congregational Care, and have filled the position of Youth Pastor internally. They are thankful for the support of Classis Georgetown.

Friendship Chapel, Rev. Len Troast, Interim Pastor, reported that this congregation has extended a call and hopes to hear encouraging news soon. In the meantime, they have been working through the questions of who are we? and where do we start? A church leader is dealing with cancer. This church is also thankful for the support of Classis Georgetown.

EverGreen Ministries, Elder Rick Kennedy reported that they are taking applications through June 30 for the role of senior pastor, which is presently being filled by Rev. Tom Kragt, Pastor of Congregational Life. Morale remains high and they have just completed a 3 year building campaign. Continued prayer is appreciated for church leaders dealing with cancer.

Alive Ministries, Rev. Terry Scholten reports that they continue to seek ways to be in the community in order to reach the 30,000 that are not part of a church on Sunday morning. They are two years old, and continue to look for space for this growing congregation. They are thankful to Classis Georgetown for their support.

Prayer for churches in transition, Rev. Stan Drenth led in prayer for these five churches in transition and their specific needs.

- **Credentials Committee Report:**

Rev. Dave Jolman, First CRC of Hudsonville, reports that there is one request to report and that is that Messiah CRC has asked Rev. Jolman to be their counselor during their vacancy after Rev. Terry Genzink retires on June 15, 2013. **Motion was MSC for Rev. Jolman to serve as counselor for Messiah CRC.**

- **10:24 Team Report:**

Rev. Brian Bosscher reported that 10:24 is in need of many people to make this program successful. He also reported that the 10:24 teams will no longer all be coaching teams made up of those people who have gone through the coaching training. Some 10:24 teams will now simply have a *ministry of encouragement* to other churches. He outlined the process of encouraging, along with some suggestions for questions to use. He encouraged every church to use the services of a 10:24 Team.

VII. Sharing the Compassionate Life

Article 9

- **“Just Faith”**

Mr. Bob Alderink, from Georgetown CRC, made a presentation on this topic and provided information about how this program works. He can be contacted at Georgetown CRC for more information.

- President Koning asked for comments about the most meaningful aspect of the delegates time spent with the Harbor House residents today. Responses included:
 - ~ it is easy for disabled people to become isolated
 - ~ the delegates experienced residents who were loving and amazingly joyful
 - ~ it was also noted how this experience gives a new meaning to what is “normal” for some peoplePresident Koning added that 1 in 5 people have a disability.
- President Koning concluded by reading Luke 14:7-24 and commented on Jesus’ words that when we prepare a banquet we should first invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. We then sang “Differently Abled”. With these words we celebrated the Lord’s Supper with the residents of Harbor House, including having the bread presented to us by one of the residents. The service was closed by singing “Be Thou My Vision.”
- Closing remarks included thanking residents, staff, and all delegates and visitors for their attendance.

The next meeting of Classis Georgetown will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013, time and place to be determined.

We receive the Blessing of God

We leave to love and serve the Lord!