



Session #83

MEETING MINUTES

THEME: Empowering Worship

Thursday, May 21, 2015

3:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Friendship Chapel

7754 28th Avenue

Jenison, MI 49428

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. David Den Haan (afternoon)

President: Rev. Gerry Koning (evening)

Stated Clerk: Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen

I. Prior meeting activity

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

PASTOR

Jerry Van Groningen

ELDER

Conrad Vander Werf

Mariette Van Garderen

Al Solle

Bauer Cottonwood Church	Tim Holwerda	Doug Buys Dave Sjoerdsma John Vander Molen
EverGreen Ministries Fairway First Hudsonville First Jenison Forest Grove Friendship Chapel Georgetown	Tom Kragt David Den Haan David Jolman Adam Barton Jeff Scripps Josh Benton	Bob Posthumus Steve De Bruin Jeff Horstman Gordon Mast Bob Meyer Denise Stam Jim Roskam Shawn Grasman John Schout Joe Lems
Hillcrest Immanuel	Brian Bosscher Bob Huisman Shelby Gemmen	David Eberlein Don Veltman Harold Postma
Jamestown Messiah Ridgewood Searchlight Ministries Trinity Twelfth Avenue Zutphen	Rog Slagter Nate Meldrim Nancy Boote Stan Drenth Gerry Koning Mark Bennink Joshua Van Drunen	Doug Steketee David Baatenburg Dave Van Haitsma

Other persons attending Classis for all or part of the meeting:

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	Dr. Steven Timmermans Executive Director CRCNA
Dee Obrecht Executive Director Criminal Justice Chaplaincy	Pam Steenstra Executive Director Georgetown Harmony Homes	Ernest Umoh Strong Tower Ministries

II. Welcome and Worship

Article 3:

A. Introduction and expression of the theme, President Den Haan:

1. The theme for today is one of the five values of classis, Empowering Worship.
2. Prayer is an integral part of the worship of the church and of individual followers of Christ.

B. Welcome, President Den Haan:

1. Several guests were welcomed by our president. They included Rev. Duane Vanderbrug, Chair Facilitator of the Vision Team; Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director of the CRCNA; Ms. Dee Obrecht, Executive Director of Criminal Justice Chaplaincy; Ms. Pam Steenstra, Executive Director of Georgetown Harmony Homes; and Mr.

Ernest Umoh, representing Strong Tower Ministries. Each was welcomed and invited to join us for dinner later on.

2. Dr. Timmermans was welcomed as he begins serving the CRCNA as the new Executive Director of the CRCNA.
3. Rev. Nate Meldrim was introduced as the newly installed pastor of Messiah CRC, and the newest of our classis pastors.

C. Worship with the Friendship Chapel Praise Team:

They led us in singing “Holy Spirit Thou Art Welcome in this Place,” and “We Fall Down.”

III. Classis Business, Part I

Article 4

A. Regional Pastors report, Rev. Bob Huisman:

1. Proposed regional pastor activities include another book club opportunity, and possibly family outings.
2. RP’s work is to provide support to the pastors by listening to their needs.
3. Pastors and church staff are encouraged to check the Classis Georgetown website (www.classisgeorgetown.com) for Pine Rest resources.

B. Vision Team (received for information), Rev. Gerry Koning reporting:

1. The Vision Team, formerly known as the CIC, governs and casts vision for Classis Georgetown.
2. Churches need to think of things to be doing that they can handle. If a project or event is too large to handle with their own congregation, they are encouraged to ask classis for help.
3. The Value Team Stewards of classis were introduced: Rev. Marc Nelesen, Healthy Leaders; Rev. Mark Bennink, Empowering Worship; Rev. Dave Jolman, Daring Hospitality; Rev. Larry Doornbos, Collaborative Relationships; and Rev. Gerry Koning, Risky Compassion.

C. Motion from Trinity CRC on Somalian church plant:

On behalf of Trinity CRC, Rev. Dave Jolman introduced the following proposal:

Background:

Trinity CRC has taken leadership in our classis in the important work of reaching out to Somali immigrants. This group of immigrants is largely Muslim in background and is seeking to find their way in their new home in the U.S. Rev. Gerry Koning has developed a strong relationship with Ernest Umoh who has the heart of an evangelist and a heart for Somali people.

The result of these efforts is that a new congregation was begun on Easter Sunday 2015 in space leased in Wyoming. Presently there are up to 40 people who are part of this worshipping community—a good number are still Muslim and exploring who Jesus is. In the world of church planting, this number of people is a good core beginning.

While it is a good core, the Somali community is limited in the resources it has to sustain this congregation and pay a pastor. At this time Ernest Umoh is working full time and leading the congregation.

Trinity CRC is shepherding Ernest and this church as they move forward.

Recommendation:

That Classis Georgetown give a three year declining grant (\$10,000, 2015; \$8,000, 2016; \$6,000, 2017) to support this ministry. The money will be specifically for salary support for the pastor so that he can spend more time building this congregation and reaching out to other Somali immigrants.

The money for this will be taken from the Church Planting portion of our budget.

Grounds:

There is a need to reach out to immigrants in our community. This provides us with a unique opportunity to reach out to Muslim immigrants who need the gospel.

The church has a good start but needs funding to grow stronger.

The declining grant gives time for the church to establish itself and become more self-sufficient.

The grant fits with our desire as a classis to welcome the stranger.

This grant fits with our classis' goal to work collaboratively.

Trinity CRCs connection and work with this congregation keeps a vital connection between this new church and classis.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried for the Somalian church plant proposal.

President Den Haan offered a prayer for the Somalian church.

D. Church Counselor's report:

Jamestown CRC is making progress on securing a pastor; First Jenison CRC has one year remaining in Rev. Adam Barton's two year term call; and Messiah CRC is happy to report the acceptance of a call extended to Rev. Nate Meldrim.

E. 10:24 Encouragement Team report, Ms. Tricia Bosma:

Churches have one more year on their 2 year match. Two pairs made positive reports, and others are encouraged to connect during the upcoming year.

F. Credentials report, President Den Haan:

The Vision Team reported that Ridgewood CRC has requested a mentor regarding filling a new staff position. Due to time constraints this request has been referred back to the Vision Team and will be on the agenda for their June 9 meeting.

G. Student Loan Fund report:

1. The following recommendations were received:

Chris Bouma (Forest Grove) F/T @ CTS	\$5750.00
Jordan Kuiper (Immanuel) F/T @CTS	5750.00
Jessica LaMer (Evergreen) F/T @ Western Seminary	3000.00
Steve Mann (Georgetown) F/T @ Western Seminary	3000.00
Cory Nederveld (Cottonwood) ½ @ CTS	2250.00
Greg VanderHorn (Trinity) ½ @ CTS	2250.00
Cody Zuiderveen (Hillcrest) F/T @ Gordon Conwell	<u>3000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$25,000.00

2. The SLF reports that they have been giving priority for funding to full time students that are attending Calvin Theological Seminary.
3. The SLF hopes to have a new constitution proposal in September.
4. **Motion was MSC to accept the recommendations for funding theSLF.**

H. Request from Ridgewood CRC:

At their meeting on March 17, 2015, the Vision Team has taken action on a request from the Ridgewood CRC to grant honorable emeritation to the Rev. Joel Boot for reasons of age, effective on June 1, 2015. Motion was MSC for this request.

I. Voting for Calvin College Seminary Trustee:

Delegates were asked to vote for 1 of 2 nominees for an opening on the Calvin Theological Seminary Board. Before voting, delegates were informed that one of the nominees, Rev. James Kuiper, had accepted a call outside area 10. The voting totals were 35 for Rev. Timothy Howerzyl and 2 for Rev. James Kuiper.

J. Prayer Summit in Korea, Rev. Bob Huisman:

Bob reported on his recent visit to the Prayer Summit in Korea. He mentioned that the South Korean Christians hold prayer services every hour from 5 AM to 9 AM every day of the week. Among those prayed for by the South Koreans are the North Korean people and President Obama.

K. Prayers Summit in California, Rev. Tim Holwerda:

1. Tim shared about his time at the prayer summit in California. He was inspired and challenged by the things he learned there, and from others who attended and were willing to share their stories about prayer. At this conference people learned how to spend larger amounts of time praying.

L. Prayer Time for Delegates:

1. All the delegates were asked to spend time in prayer. The request was made to list 3 “impossible” situations to present to God in prayer from one’s

- family, church, or the world. Then list 3 people that God brings to mind that you have been choosing not to love. Then the delegates broke up into small groups and spent time in prayer, both listening to and praying to God.
2. President Den Haan then asked Dr. Timmermans to address the meeting with a brief report on the upcoming synod and the transition into his role as the denomination's Executive Director. He then asked the delegates to come forward and pray for Dr. Timmermans.

IV. Dinner

The meal was prepared and served by members of Friendship Chapel.

V. Worship and Prayer:

Article 5

A. Praise and Worship:

1. We were again led in worship by the Friendship Chapel praise team. Songs we sang were "Surrender," "Draw Me Close," and "I Exalt Thee."
2. Before dinner papers listing various prayer concerns in our community and our world were handed out for the delegate's reflection and review. At this time our President for the evening, Rev. Gerry Koning, asked the delegates to select one or two items from the list and after he had an opening prayer, for others to come forward to the mic and offer prayer for those items.

VI. Classis Business, Part 2

Article 6

A. Financial report:

1. The Financial Report was sent out a couple of days ago. Since the delegates had time prior to the meeting to review this report, any questions were directed to our Treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie.
2. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.**

B. Stated Clerk's report:

1. The Stated Clerk's report was sent out several weeks ago for review by the delegates.
2. No questions were raised so a **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**

VII. Concluding Worship and Service of Communion

Article 7

A. Service of Communion and Closing moments:

1. Rev. Mark Bennink served as the liturgist for the service of Holy Communion.
2. During the communion liturgy, the praise team of Friendship Chapel led us in singing "Holy, Holy, Holy."
3. The final songs we sang were "Solid Rock," "From the Inside Out," and "How Great is Our God."
4. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee VanHeuvelen

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

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 classisgt@i2k.com, at least two months (July 16, 2015) before the next classis meeting in September.

B. Next classis meetings:

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

February 18, 2016, theme, time and location tbd