



Session #87

MEETING MINUTES

THEME: Risky Compassion

Thursday, May 26, 2016

4:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Trinity Christian Reformed Church

0-60 Port Sheldon Road

Grandville, MI 49418

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven

Vice-President: Rev. Gerry Koning

Stated Clerk: Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen

I. CREDENTIALS

Article 1

Credentials: Each church in classis submitted its credentials before this meeting. An assigned seating arrangement was used with two pastors, two elders, and two deacons, all of different churches, at each table. All others were seated at tables along the side of the room. The Vision Team reviewed the credentials and will report later in the meeting.

Article 2

Delegates in attendance:

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

Susan LaClear
Jerry Van Groningen
Tim Holwerda

Tom Kragt

David Jolman
Adam Barton
Jeff Scripps
Josh Benton

Brian Bosscher

Dan Gritter
Nate Meldrim
Len Kuyvenhoven
Stan Drenth
Gerry Koning
Mark Bennink
Josh Van Drunen

ELDER

Mariette Van Garderen
Floyd Brouwer
Dave Waldner
Todd Billin
Jeff De Koning
David Ritsema
Dirk Vander Steen
Dan Buning
Jeff Horstman
Wayne Haverdink
Chris Bouma
Bob Mastbergen
Jim Roskam
Steve Dykstra
Joe Lems
Lou VanEssendelft
Hank Bosma
Ike Koetje
Harold Postma
Don Wiersma
Dan Postma
David Holkeboer
Dave VanHaitsma

DEACON

Brian Karsten
William Streelman
Matt Voss
Jared Schuitema

Brian LaFrence

John Bosscher
Al Arendsen
Derek Van Dam
Marcia Jasperse
Larry Oosterbaan

Kevin VerMerris

Jeff De Vries
Dale De Lange
Marcy Sterken
Kathy Snippe
Melissa Dykema
Allen Broene
Craig Brouwer

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane VanderBrug
Vision Team
Chair/Facilitator

Tricia Bosma
10:24 Coordinator
Alternate Stated Clerk

Dee Obrecht
Executive Director
Criminal Justice Chaplaincy

Kathy Jelsema
Assistant Treasurer
Web Keeper

Dr. Erik Carter
Vanderbilt University

Pam Steenstra
Executive Director
Georgetown Harmony Homes

Dee VanHeuvelen
Vision Team/Admin. Ass't.
Stated Clerk

Laura Keeley
Faith Formation Ministries
CRCNA

Brian Boucek
Director of Youth Ministries
Bauer CRC

II. WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Article 3

A. Opening worship, Rev. Kuyvenhoven:

1. After Rev. Kuyvenhoven welcomes all present, he turns the meeting over to projected. (See attached compilation)

- a. "Shine on Us"
- b. "Majesty"

2. Rev. Nate Meldrim reads Matthew 25:31-46, with the gathering invited to join in on vv. 40 and 45.
3. This is followed by a prayer song, "Here I Am, Lord."
4. As President Kuyvenhoven leads in a meditation on Luke 10:25-37, the parable
5. After a time of reflection and commitment, the delegates are led in a discussion
6. Rev. Kuyvenhoven then leads the group in prayers asking God to lead us into risky compassion.
7. Our worship time is closed by singing a song of commitment, "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak," swapping plural pronouns for all singular pronouns.

III. WE WORK TOGETHER TO DO THE BUSINESS OF CLASSIS

Article 4

A. Welcome

1. Rev. Kuyvenhoven welcomes all delegates and acknowledges the visitors; Dr. Erik Carter, from Vanderbilt University, our special guest for the evening; Ms. Laura Keeley from Faith Formation Ministries; Ms. Dee Obrecht, Criminal Justice Chaplaincy; and Ms. Pam Steenstra, Georgetown Harmony Homes.

B. Overture to Synod from Forest Grove CRC

1. **Background:** this past November the congregations of the CRCNA were given three substantial and substantive reports for study purposes. Due to the timing of the reports, the serious nature of the materials, and the size of the reports, not enough time is provided to do justice to a thorough study and to report back to Classis and then Synod.
2. **Motion: The council of Forest Grove CRC overtures Classis Georgetown to overture Synod to instruct future study committees to provide, on the day that a study committee report is made available for councils, a 1-2 page summary of that report, (recommendations may be left out). Motion was made, seconded, and carried.**
3. **Grounds:**
 - a. Local councils should be encouraged to become aware of and involved in denominational matters. This is the church doing its work as one body.
 - b. The study committee is in the best position to offer an accurate, accessible summary of its report so as to facilitate local council involvement.

C. First Jenison's motion:

1. **The following motion was presented by the council of First Jenison CRC: The council of First Jenison Christian Reformed Church seeks the approval of Classis Georgetown on the decision of First Jenison Christian Reformed Church to disband. The effective date to disband will be July 11, 2016. Motion was MSC.** By mutual consent of both councils, the remaining memberships at First Jenison are transferred to Baldwin Street CRC so that there is no gap in spiritual care.
2. President Kuyvenhoven led the delegates in a brief slideshow presentation regarding the history of First Jenison CRC.

3. Rev. Adam Barton, pastor of First Jenison, thanked Rev. Brian Bosscher for being a wise advisor, and Rev. Joel Boot, for his partnership in the closing process.
4. President Kuyvenhoven prayed for this church, as she lived out the role of giving from the mother church, and because of this, daughter churches are growing.

D. Retirements:

1. **Motion: The council of the Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church requests Classis Georgetown to grant Rev. Jim Molenbeek emeritation effective June 30, 2015 for reason of age. Motion was MSC.**
2. **Please note corrected minute of September 17, 2015: Rev. Molenbeek's request was to have his membership transferred, and not his credentials. This was acted on at the July 21, 2015 meeting of the Ridgewood council.**
3. **Motion: The council of Baldwin Street has asked Classis Georgetown to June 30, 2016, for reason of age. Motion was MSC.** Rev. Mark Bennink was asked to serve as counselor to Baldwin Street during this vacancy.
4. Rev. Van Groningen addressed the delegates. He gave gratitude to God for the privilege of working in Classis Georgetown, and among other churches.
5. Rev. Mark Bennink closed this section of our meeting with prayer for the retiring pastors.

E. Ministry Reports:

1. Student Loan Fund, Rev. Stan Drenth, reporting:

- a. The following students have been approved for loans for the coming year:

Tricia Bosma, Hillcrest CRC, Calvin Theological Seminary	\$1,578
Chris Bouma, Forest Grove CRC, CTS	6,313
Steve Mann, Georgetown CRC, Western Theological Seminary	3,000
Cory Nederveld, Cottonwood, CTS	2,250
Greg Vander Horn, Trinity, CTS	5,787
Cory Zuiderveen, , Hillcrest, CTS	3,000
Christa Schout, Georgetown CRC	<u>2,000</u>

Total **\$23,928**

(This is an adjustment from previous totals.)

- b. Rev. Stan Drenth is stepping down as chair of this committee, but will serve an additional year. He will be replaced by Rev. Jeff Scripps.
- c. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Student Loan Fund Committee.**
2. **Treasurer's Report, Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Assistant Treasurer, reporting: No questions were raised. Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer and the report provided.**
3. **Vision Team Report, Rev. Gerry Koning, reporting:**
Rev. Koning reported on where Classis Georgetown has been in relation to moving from primarily a governance body to a body which seeks to facilitate
4. **Regional Pastors report:**
No report was presented due to the absence with notice of both pastors.
5. **Stated Clerk's Report, Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen, reporting:**
All of the business that needed action has been recorded in the preceding

6. **Credential Report, Rev. Dave Jolman, reporting:**
All credentials were turned in by meeting time. Forest Grove CRC is offering
Motion was MSC to approve the credential report.

IV. DINNER IS SERVED FROM 6:15 PM to 7:00 PM

Prayer before dinner is a responsive version of the Lord's Prayer spoken by all in attendance.

V. HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FIND EMPLOYMENT

Article 5

- A. Presentation by Dr. Eric Carter, who is connected with the Kessler Foundation in Atlanta.
 1. He provided many current statistics about disabled people and employment.
 2. The focus of his work is Putting Faith To Work by enabling faith communities to address the employment needs of their disabled members.
 3. This is a critical need in our society as the unemployment rate of people with disabilities is nearly 80% and those with disabilities share the same aspirations as those without them.
 4. This was followed by a short time of questions.
- B. Presentation by Rev. Koning about LLC's.
 1. He and his wife have 2 children with disabilities, for whom they have created
 2. Their daughter packages and sells bird seed for her business and their son has contracted to clean the playground equipment weekly in Grandville.
 3. LLC's take some time to set up, but are well worth the time and energy.

Article 6

- A. Closing moments
 1. Thanks to the host church, Dr. Carter, and all of the delegates.
 2. Spoken response "Our World Belongs to God" st. 44.
 3. Benediction
 4. Parting Praise, singing together "He is Lord."

Next classis meeting: **Thursday, September 15, 2016**, location tbd.

Classis meetings for 2017: **February 16**
May 18
September 21