



Session #84

## MEETING MINUTES

**THEME: Collaborative Relationships**

**Thursday, September 17, 2015**

**3:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church**

**1571 Baldwin Street**

**Jenison, MI 49428**

### **Officers of the Day**

**President: Rev. David Den Haan**  
**Vice President: Rev. Gerry Koning**  
**Stated Clerk: Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen**

### **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  
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

Terry Scholten  
Jerry Van Groningen  
Tim Holwerda  
Matt Palsrok  
Larry Doornbos  
David Den Haan  
David Jolman  
Adam Barton  
(Early departure W/N)  
Jeff Scripps  
Josh Benton  
Marc Nelesen  
Brian Bosscher  
Bob Huisman  
Dan Gritter  
Nate Meldrim  
Len Kuyvenhoven  
Stan Drenth  
Gerry Koning  
Mark Bennink  
Joshua Van Drunen

#### ELDER

Conrad Vander Werf  
Floyd Brouwer  
Mike Mesman  
Dave Sjoerdsma  
Tom Kragt  
Steve Helder  
Jeff Horstman  
Calvin Sall

Jud Gebben  
Brent Johnson  
Jim Roskam  
Steve Dykstra  
Joe Lems  
Rog Slagter  
Jim Albers  
Ray Dennis  
Herb Kraker  
Dave VanRandwyk  
James Evenhouse  
Tom Doornbos

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

Duane VanderBrug  
Vision Team  
Chair/Facilitator

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

Catie Jasperse  
Elder  
Friendship Chapel

Rev. Jerry Postema  
Synodical Deputy  
Classis Muskegon

Mr. Rich Visser  
Candidate for Ministry

Kathy Jelsema  
Assistant Treasurer  
Web Keeper

Tricia Bosma  
10:24 Coordinator  
Alternate Stated Clerk

Rev. John Van Regenmorter  
Sermon Critic

Rev. Hank Vlaardingerbroek  
Synodical Deputy  
Classis Grandville

Dee Obrecht  
Executive Director  
Criminal Justice Chaplaincy

Mel VanderBie  
Classis Treasurer

Nancy Boote  
Pastor of Cong. Care  
Ridgewood CRC

Rev. Terry Genzink  
Sermon Critic

Rev. Glen Timmer  
Synodical Deputy  
Classis Kalamazoo

## II. Welcome and Worship

### Article 3:

#### A. Welcoming visitors and guests:

1. President Den Haan welcomed the visitors and the Synodical Deputies; Rev. Jerry Postema, Rev. Glen Timmer; and Rev. Hank Vlaardingbroek.
2. He then reminded those attending of the five values of classis, of which Collaborative Relationships is being highlighted at this meeting.
3. President Den Haan asked for three volunteers to pray; one for Candidate Rich Visser, whose classical exam is today; one for classis items; and one for the denomination.

**B. Worship, Rev. Larry Doornbos, Value Steward of Collaborative Relationships:**

1. Rev. Doornbos used the words of Romans 12 for devotions.
2. He then asked each delegate to think of 3 questions to ask Candidate Visser during the classical exam or during dinner. The themes included: one theme about Rich, his ministry or his life; one positive thing you would like to speak to Rich; and are you ever overwhelmed by your job description and/or what is the purpose of a term call?
3. This was followed by prayer for the meeting.

### III. Classical Exam

#### Article 4

**A. Introduction of Candidate Rich Visser, Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven:**

Rev. Kuyvenhoven mentioned a working relationship with Candidate Visser going back several years. During this time he has seen him at some of his best times in his work and through some of his more challenging times. Candidate Visser has been called to the position of Family Based Ministry Director at Ridgewood CRC.

**B. Classical Exam:**

1. According to Article 10 of the Church Order, in order to be approved as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments, Candidate Visser needs to undergo two interviews and a sermon review. Rev. Josh Van Drunen presided over the personal interview. After this there was opportunity for questions from the floor of classis. When this part of the process was completed, a **motion was made, seconded, and carried to proceed to the sermon review.**
2. Rev. Terry Genzink reported favorably on the sermon, which was preached at Ridgewood CRC on August 16, 2015. On completion of this review and an opportunity for questions from the floor, **motion was MSC to proceed to the theological interview. The synodical deputies provided their concurrence with classis' decision.**
4. Rev. Marc Nelesen presided over the theological interview, followed by opportunity for questions from the floor of classis.

**Classis breaks into Executive Session, delegates remain, all others are excused:**

## Article 5

- A. After a short time for questions and discussion, a **motion was MSC to admit Candidate Richard Visser into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the CRCNA. The synodical deputies provided their concurrence with classis' decision.**

### Executive Session ends:

- B. All who have left the room return and Candidate Visser is congratulated. All of the delegates are asked to surround him with the laying on of hands and with prayers which are led by Rev. Josh Benton.

## IV. Dinner Hour

## V. Classis Work Continues

## Article 6

### A. Synodical Report, President Den Haan reporting:

1. A report was given on behalf of the 4 delegates from Classis Georgetown. Among the items this synod will be remembered for are changes in the denominational structure, and delegating deacons to synod and classis.
2. Even though there were significant decisions made, this synod still might be remembered for wonderful worship, great fellowship, and powerful prayers.
3. Rev. Terry Scholten offered a prayer for the denomination.

### B. Vision Team, Rev. Gerry Koning reporting:

1. The Vision Team has adopted new guidelines for funding of the Student Loan Fund. The revised guidelines are listed below:

#### RE: REVISION OF CLASSIS GUIDELINES

The churches shall encourage individuals to seek to become ministers of the Word and, in coordination with classis, shall grant financial aid to those who are in need of it. (Article 21)

Proposal: To provide up to 50% of the cost for tuition and books for eligible Classis Georgetown M.Div. students at Calvin Seminary, and up to 30% for eligible Classis Georgetown M.Div students at other Reformed seminaries.

These percentages apply to full or part-time students.

To provide up to 25% assistance for degree-seeking students at Calvin Seminary in other programs.

Grounds:

- 1) Higher education costs are rising exponentially. Classis Georgetown is better served with a percentile goal than a fixed dollar amount.

2) These goals reflect the priority of the classis and the denomination in focusing our needs-based assistance to those seeking to serve as ordained pastors in parish settings.

Explanatory Notes:

1. The estimated costs for tuition and books for the M.Div program at CTS in the 2015-16 academic year is \$16,898 (which has been rounded up to \$17,000)
2. Classis Georgetown is on the low side in this category, offering \$4.71/member to Student Financial Aid compared to the denominational average of \$5.94/member

**Motion was made, seconded, and after discussion was held on this motion it then carried.**

2. The Vision Team also presented their recommendations for approval of a Revised Grant Report for 2015-2016. The changes are reflected in these amounts:

(REVISED REPORT 7-14-15)

The Classis Georgetown Student Fund Committee met on March 27, 2015 and recommends the following grant amount for the following students as our classis financial support for school year 2015-2016 in their preparation for ministry.

Chris Bouma, f/t at CTS	\$5,750
Jessica LaMer, f/t at Western	3,000
Steve Mann, f/t at Western	3,000
Cory Nederveld, p/t at CTS	2,250
Greg VandrHorn, p/t at CTS	2,250
Christa Schout, CTS	2,000
Cody Zuiderveen, GCTS (last year at CTS)	<u>4,375</u>
TOTAL	\$22,625

3. Several churches and classes have shown a willingness to help with the Somalian Church Plant that Trinity is sponsoring in the Muslim community.
4. According to Article 40 in the CRC Church Order, “the council of each church shall delegate a minister, an elder, and a deacon to the classis.” The Vision Team will begin work towards making this possible by the February 18, 2016 classis meeting.
5. Mr. Shelby Gemmen has been interning at Immanuel CRC, and has been declared a candidate for ministry in the CRC. He has accepted a call to Grant Reformed Church in Grant, MI. He now needs to be examined by Classis Georgetown. A special Classis meeting has been scheduled to be held at Immanuel CRC on October 29, 2015, beginning with a lunch at noon. All churches are expected to send delegates.

**C. Budget and Financial Report, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, Classis Treasurer, reporting:**

1. With little discussion a **motion was MSC to adopt the proposed budget for 2016.**

2. The current financial report was presented and **a motion was MSC to adopt this report.**
3. Packets of information were handed out to each church concerning membership counts for each individual church.
4. **A motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.**

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

1. Please note that upon Rev. James Molenbeek's retirement, his request to have his credentials transferred from Ridgewood CRC to LaGrave Avenue CRC, was acted on at the July 21, 2015 meeting of the Ridgewood council.
2. **A motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**
3. Rev. Jeff Scripps offered a prayer for the work of classis.

**VI. Closing Moments:**

**Article 7**

- A. President Den Haan thanked the delegates for their attendance at this meeting.
- B. He also thanked Ridgewood CRC for their gracious hospitality.
- C. The meeting was closed by group prayers as we circled the podium, and sang the chorus of "In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified" a cappella.
- D. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dee VanHeuvelen*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**Please Note:**

- A. All matters and requests for speaking at classis or that classis may consider, must be sent to the Stated Clerk, Dee VanHeuvelen, at [classisgt@i2k.com](mailto:classisgt@i2k.com), at least two months (December 18, 2015) before the next classis meeting on February 18, 2016.
- B. Next classis meetings:
  - October 29, 2015, classical exam for Candidate Shelby Gemmen, 12 noon, Immanuel CRC**
  - February 18, 2016, theme will be Collaborative Relationships, time will be 12:30 PM to 7:30 PM, and location will be Camp Geneva**
  - May 26, 2016, theme will be Risky Compassion, time and location tbd (please note that the May meeting will be one week later than usual)**