



Session #81

MEETING MINUTES

THEME: Risky Compassion

Thursday, September 18, 2014

3:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Sunset Manor

725 Baldwin Street

Jenison, MI 49428

Officers of the Day

President: 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:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>ELDER</u>
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Conrad Vander Werf
Baldwin Street	Jerry Van Groningen	Ken Dornbush
Bauer	Tim Holwerda	Ken Vander Kolk
Cottonwood Heights	Matthew Palsrok	Jim Poll
EverGreen Ministries	Larry Doornbos	Tom Kragt
Fairway	Mark Dykema	Geoff Lenters
First Hudsonville	David Jolman	Gary De Haan
First Jenison	Adam Barton	Gordon Mast
Forest Grove	Jeffrey Scripps	Everett DeFouw
Friendship Chapel	Josh Benton	Harold Rozema
Georgetown	Jack Dik	Jim Roskam
Hillcrest	Brian Bosscher	Tom Vander Well
Immanuel	Bob Huisman	Larry Herweyer
Jamestown	Dave Eberlein	Rog Slagter

Messiah
Ridgewood
Searchlight
Trinity
Twelfth Avenue
Zutphen

Dan Gritter
Len Kuyvenhoven

Gerry Koning
Mark Bennink
Joshua Van Drunen

Don Veltman
Harold Postma

Pete Ludwig
Dave Baatenburg
Bob Ponstein

Other persons attending Classis:

Mr. Mel Vander Bie
Classis Treasurer

Ms. Kathy Jelsema
Ass't. Treasurer, Web Keeper

Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen
Stated Clerk

Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf
Criminal Justice Chaplaincy

Rev. Marv Vander Vliet
Juvenile Justice Ministry (YFC)

Ms. Jodi Cole Meyer
World Renew Board President

Candidate Caleb Walcott

Dr. Randy Blacketer
Synodical Deputy

Rev. Bill De Vries
Synodical Deputy

Rev. Jerry Postema
Synodical Deputy

Rev. Terry Genzink
Sermon Critic

Rev. John Van Regenmorter
Sermon Critic

Rev. Bob De Vries
Presenter

Ms. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge
Presenter

II. Welcome and Worship

Article 3

- A. Rev. Gerry Koning, representing Classis, welcomed all in attendance and constituted the meeting.
- B. The credentials were reviewed by Rev. Josh Van Drunen, Zutphen CRC, and Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen, Stated Clerk, and a report was given to President Matt Palsrok that was shared with delegates later in the meeting.
- C. Rev. Koning led us in singing, Scripture, and prayer, accompanied by Rev. Van Drunen.

Learning and serving together

III. Healthy Leaders

Article 4

- A. Rev. Palsrok introduced Candidate Caleb Walcott, who was being examined by Classis Georgetown in order to be ordained to the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- B. Since Candidate Walcott has taken a position as a Hospice Chaplain, this position must be approved as consistent with the calling of a Minister of the Word per Article 12c of the Church Order. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the position, along with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies present.**
- C. According to Article 10 of the Church Order, in order to be approved as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament, Candidate Walcott needed to undergo two interviews and a sermon review. Rev. Tim Holwerda presided over the personal interview. Rev. Holwerda then prayed for Caleb. **Motion was MSC to proceed to the sermon review.**
- D. Rev. Terry Genzink and Rev. John Van Regenmorter conducted the sermon review (which was preached at a recovery service at EverGreen Ministries on August 17, 2014. Rev. Genzink provided a positive report from that service. **Motion was MSC to proceed to the theological interview, along with the concurrence of the Synodical Deputies.**
- E. Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven then led the theological interview.

Fellowship over dinner

IV. Dinner Hour Working together

Classis returns to work and breaks into Executive Session:

Article 5

- A. After a short time for questions, **motion was MSC to admit Candidate Caleb Walcott into the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments of the CRCNA with the approval of the Synodical Deputies.**

Executive Session ends:

- B. All who have left the room return and Candidate Walcott is congratulated. Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf, retiring Chaplain of Criminal Justice Chaplaincy, then gives him some words of advice that he has acquired from his many years in the chaplaincy, and prays for him.
- C. All of the delegates are asked to surround Candidate Walcott with the laying on of hands while Rev. Koning offers a prayer for successful completion of his classical exam and his upcoming work as a hospice chaplain.

Article 6

- A. **Counselor's Report on First Jenison CRC by Rev. Bosscher.** He states that Rev. Adam Barton has been hired for a two year term call and things appear to be in good order.
- B. **Rev. Adam Barton reports on one time grant** and thanks classis for these funds. They were used for events that were intended to bring in unchurched people of an older age. He thanked classis for being on the journey with them.
- C. The following information was received from the credentials report of Hillcrest CRC. Per advice from the denomination and as unanimously approved by our council on August 19, 2014, we are submitting a proposal to grant Rev. Humberto Casanova retirement. He has reached the official retirement age of August 21 and while he is still actively employed in the ministry, it is not in our denomination. **Motion was MSC to grant Rev. Casanova honorable retirement effective August 21, 2014.**
- D. Our new Prayer Coordinator, **Rev. Holwerda, reminded delegates of a Regional Prayer Summit that is planned for November 7-8 at Calvary CRC in Holland.** Contact him for more details.
- E. **Synodical Delegates Report was provided by Rev. Jeff Scripps.** The 4 delegates reported that Synod 2014 was a positive and encouraging experience for each of them.
- F. **Financial Report was presented by Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Classis Assistant Treasurer.**
1. Under the value of Healthy Leadership two increases were noted.
 - a. A \$1,000 increase to the Regional Pastor account for a total budget amount of \$10,000, which covers the annual fee to be paid to Pine Rest for counseling services for pastors, their families, and church staff.
 - b. A \$4,500 increase to Student Aid for Seminary for a total budget amount of \$25,000.
 2. Under the value of Empowering Worship, a \$500 increase was made to the Prayer Ministry Account, in response to Rev. Holwerda becoming the Classis Prayer Coordinator.
 3. In order to balance the budget a decrease of \$6,000 was made to the New Church Development account.
 4. The proposed increase per member is \$1.12 or a 3.8% increase.
 5. Denominational ministry share amounts this year are \$358.73.
 6. The Finance Team will be sending remittance forms electronically for the payment of the 2015 ministry shares. These notices will come out later this fall.
 7. **Motion was MSC to approve the 2015 budget.**
 8. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Finance Team.**
- G. **Stated Clerk's Report was presented by Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen.** It is time to present nominations for board members for the denominational boards. **No reservations were made so the following people will be nominated for their 2nd 3 year terms: Rev. Kenneth A. Baker, Board of Trustees of the CRCNA; Mr. Wayne Brower, Back to God Ministries International; Mr. R. Scott Boot, Calvin College; and Rev. Ronald Meyer, Christian Reformed World Missions. In addition there are 2 vacancies. Calvin College Board needs 1 person, either clergy or non-clergy, and Calvin**

Seminary needs one clergy person. Please contact the Stated Clerk for more information. Nominations are accepted through October 31. Motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.

H. Vision Team report, Rev. Gerry Koning

1. **Rev. Huisman, Regional Co-Pastor**, reported that there is a “Lunch with the Pastors” coming up on Tuesday, October 28, at noon. More information is coming.
2. **Rev. Huisman reported on a ministry that has been started at Immanuel CRC called “Community Freedom Ministry.”** He may be contacted for more information.
3. **Ms. Jodi Cole Meyer**, one of just a few board members from Classis Georgetown, is presently serving as President of World Renew. She reported that worldwide there are fewer hungry people due in part to the work of World Renew. This organization is also a good source of gift giving at Christmas. She is a strong advocate of serving on one of the 7 primary boards of the CRCNA.

Learning together

Article 7

Rev. Bob De Vries and Ms. Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge, a husband and wife team, did a presentation titled “Talking About Spiritual Issues With Those Who Are Dying.” It was a very timely topic and they presented many tips about how to be effective in this ministry. They also encouraged all of the pastors in classis to preach a sermon on this topic.

V. Noteworthy items

Article 8

- 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 before the next classis meeting.
- B. Next classis meetings:
 - February 19, 2015, theme will be Daring Hospitality, time and location tbd**
 - May 21, 2015, theme will be Empowering Worship, time and location tbd**
 - September 17, 2015, theme will be Collaborative Relationships, time and location tbd**
- C. Rev. Koning closed our meeting by leading us in song and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee VanHeuvelen

Stated Clerk
Classis Georgetown