



Session #77

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

**Guiding Light Mission
255 South Division Avenue
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Officers of the Day

Host: Rev. Tom Kragt
Co-host: Rev. Gerry Koning
Recorder: Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen
Classis Value highlighted: Daring Hospitality

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

The following are the delegates in attendance:

CHURCH

Alive Ministries
Baldwin Street
Bauer
Cottonwood Heights
EverGreen Ministries
Fairway
First Hudsonville
First Jenison
Forest Grove
Friendship Chapel
Georgetown
Hillcrest
Immanuel

PASTOR

Jerry Van Groningen
Tim Holwerda
Matthew Palsrok
Tom Kragt
David Den Haan
David Jolman
Adam Barton
Jeffrey Scripps
Josh Benton
Jack Dik
Brian Bosscher

ELDER

Carl Wiersum
Doug Buys
Dave Sjoerdsma

John Wilks
Ron Sterk
Donald Wierenga
Ron Koedam
Jon Diekema
Bill Lamer
Richard Brummel
Ron Geers
Jack Vander Ploeg

Jamestown
Messiah
Ridgewood

Steven Hasper
Dan Gritter

Steve Hekman
Don Veltman
Jim Elders
Will Nieboer

Searchlight
Trinity
Twelfth Avenue
Zutphen

Stan Drenth
Gerry Koning
Mark Bennink
Joshua Van Drunen

Jay Milkamp
Jim Evenhouse
Jim Van Dragt

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug
Transition Team Chair/Facilitator

Kathy Jelsema
Assistant Treasurer, Web Keeper

Tricia Bosma
10:24 Coordinator

Don Hamilton, Baldwin St. CRC
Deacon Guest

Carolyn Navis, Trinity CRC
Deacon Guest

Dee VanHeuvelen
Interim Stated Clerk

II. Welcome

Article 3

A. Rev. Tom Kragt, president of Classis, welcomed all in attendance. He then opened with prayer. The meeting was constituted.

B. Mr. Jim Johnson, Guiding Light staff member, introduced Mr. Stuart Ray, Executive Director of Guiding Light Mission. He told the delegates that finding jobs is a major focus for the residents and that they have a 95% success ratio. GLM is privately funded. Another important fact is that the Heartside area around the mission has a lower rate of police activity than the area around Woodland Mall.

III. Small Group Exercise (1)

Article 4

- Tricia Bosma, 10:24 Coordinator, dispersed 10 “chair persons” around the room. Each of these people gathered 3-4 delegates around them with the following instructions: Share an experience where you were a stranger or felt like a stranger. What made you a stranger? How did you feel? What was your inner and outer response?

IV. Classis Works Together

Article 5

A. Welcome: Although Rev. Josh Benton has been unofficially welcomed before, Rev. Kragt officially welcomed him as the new pastor at Friendship Chapel. Also welcomed was Rev. Dan Gritter, the newly appointed Interim Pastor at Messiah CRC.

B. Synodical Report, Rev. Dave Jolman: synod was blessed with very good leadership

~**Challenges:** Faith Alive has been dissolved but work is carried on elsewhere
CRCNA Survey shows older membership, less kids in families, Sunday evening attendance is lessening, 75 and older are best givers, can't continue to do “business as usual”

Ongoing discussions on same sex marriages and deacons at larger assemblies

~**Blessings:** New hymnal “Lift Up Your Hearts”

50 candidates for ministry
125th anniversary of World Missions

C. Classis Budget, Mel Vander Bie and Kathy Jelsema:

~2012 income was very good, and so far 2013 has been better

~Alive Ministries is planning to repay before year's end a large sum that was borrowed

~there are enough funds on hand for the daily operations of classis

~budget as presented today is slightly higher than handed out previously (NOTE VOTE BELOW)

D. Student Fund Report, Rev. Tim Holwerda:

- ~Currently 4 students are being supported: Rick Boomsma, Cory Nederveld, Greg Vander Horn, and Cody Zuiderveen
- ~The Student Loan Fund Committee is recommending the addition of Rob De Graaf Twelfth Avenue (\$3,000) Western Seminary and Steve Mann, Georgetown (\$2,500) Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. **Motion was made, supported and carried to add these two students.**
- ~**Motion was made, supported and carried to approve the 2014 budget with the addition of these two students.**

E. Clerk's Report, Dee VanHeuvelen:

- ~churches are asked to review ministers for whom they hold credentials to note any changes in status
- ~information will be sent to churches concerning SPACT (Strategic Planning and Adaptive Change Team) a team that is working to help the denomination, classes, and individual churches work more closely together
- ~Mr. Loren Veldhuizen, chair of the CRCNA Executive Director Search Committee asks for prayers for discernment for this committee and preparation for the heart and mind of the one to be chosen
- ~**Motion was made, supported and carried to approve Jodi Cole Meyer to a second 3 year term on the board of World Renew**
- ~**Motion was made, supported and carried to approve Cynthia (Cindi) Veenstra to a second 3 year term on the board of Back to God Ministries International**
- ~Ministerial credentials from the delegates were collected by the clerk and reviewed by the Rev. Van Drunen
- ~**Motion was made, supported and carried to approve the work of the Clerk**

V. Residents and Delegates Enjoy Dinner Together

Article 6

- A buffet style meal was enjoyed by the residents and delegates. Each resident hosted 2-3 delegates and stories were shared during this time.

VI. Chapel

Article 7

A. We began this segment by singing verse 1 of "Count Your Blessings" accompanied by the Rev. Van Drunen on the piano.

B. Rev. Dave Den Haan led us in our devotions for the day by sharing the stories from Mark 5 about Jairus' daughter dying. But when Jesus realized that the woman with a blood issue had touched his cloak, how he responded to her with Daring Hospitality.

C. An overture from Ridgewood CRC was presented which came via the credentials:
"The council of Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church (Classis Georgetown) hereby overtures Classis Georgetown to allow seating of women as voting representatives for all future Classis meetings. This is to include any women pastors, elders, and deacon representatives appropriately designated and credentialed by their respective councils. This policy is to be instituted for all future scheduled Classis Georgetown meetings."

This overture was referred to the Transition Team to be brought back to classis in February for discussion and action.

D. Rev. Den Haan shared how Guiding Light Mission and Fairway became partners in ministry, by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through some of their members, and not by intentionally planning programs. He then introduced Joey Dow, who regularly attends worship at Fairway who shared his story.

E. Small Group Experience (2):

- ~we met in the same groups as before to reflect on 2 questions
- ~share an experience when someone hosted you well and what actions, words or behaviors made you feel "hosted well"
- ~ we then shared key reflections in the larger group

F. Classis pastors are encouraged to be plugged in to the “new” classis design. Non-clergy are also encouraged to become involved in the new structure of classis.

G. Motion was made, supported and carried to appoint Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen to fill the position of Stated Clerk for one year.

H. **10:24 Teams:** the Transition Team will match churches for encouragement teams.

I. **Regional Pastor:** A proposal by the Transition Team that the Revs. Bob Huisman and Marc Nelesen jointly fill the role of regional pastor, and their job descriptions, was tabled until the February meeting for more information.

J. **Grant Proposal:** After being reviewed, a motion was made, supported and carried to approve the Grant Proposal recommendations of the Transition Team for 2014.

K. **Financial Grant Policy:** After being reviewed, a motion was made, supported and carried to approve the newly revised Financial Grant Policy.

L. **Chair/Facilitator:** Motion was made, supported and carried to approve the Rev. Duane VanderBrug as Chair/Facilitator of the Transition Team for a term of one year.

M. **Ridgewood counselor:** Motion was made, supported and carried to approve the Rev. Mark Bennink as counselor for Ridgewood CRC.

VII: Future meetings

Article 8

A. **A Classis Contracta luncheon meeting will be held at the Georgetown CRC on Thursday, October 3, 2013, at 12 noon. Agenda: Article 17 from Jamestown CRC and Rev. Steve Hasper.**

B. **FALL LEADERSHIP KICKOFF EVENT:** The churches of Classis Georgetown, Holland and Zeeland will have their annual training event on Thursday October 3 at Graafschap Christian Reformed Church from 6:30-9:30 P.M. Keynote Speaker is Dr. John DeVries from Mission India. 16 seminars will be offered. You will be able to choose 2 of the 16. Your church has a complete list and description of each seminar. You may register with your church or call 616 494-6050 or 616 443 -1799. **You may also email your reservation to miltondoornbos@comcast.net. Please register by October 1. Cost is \$95.00 per church regardless of how many attend from the same church.**

C. **The next regularly scheduled meeting of Classis Georgetown will be held on February 20, 2014 at a time and place to be determined.**

We leave to love and serve the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,

Dee VanHeuvelen

Stated Clerk
Classis Georgetown