



CLASSIS CONTRACTA

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 3, 2013, 12 noon

**Georgetown Christian Reformed Church
6475 40th Avenue
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426**

Officers of the Day

President..... Rev. Dave Den Haan
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." Every church in attendance submitted their credentials electronically before the meeting, except one which was hand delivered.

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

Tom Kragt
David Den Haan
David Jolman
Adam Barton
Jeff Scripps
Josh Benton
Marc Nelesen
Brian Bosscher
Robert Huisman

ELDER

Carl Wiersum
Pete Van Weerdhuizen

Rick Kennedy
John Wilks
Harry Vander Brug
Gordon Mast
Garry Walters
Jon Diekema
John Van Regenmorter
Bruce Duthler
Dale Venema

Jamestown
Messiah
Ridgewood
Searchlight
Trinity
Twelfth Avenue
Zutphen

Steve Hasper
Dan Gritter

Stan Drenth
Gerald Koning
Mark Bennink
Josh Van Drunen

Steve Hekman
Don Veltman
Harold Postma

Jay Milkamp
Jim Evenhouse
Vern Shoemaker

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug
Transition Team Chair/Facilitator

Kathy Jelsema
Assistant Treasurer

Dee VanHeuvelen
Stated Clerk

Dr. Ron De Young
Synodical Deputy, Cl. Zeeland

Rev. Sid Draayer
Synodical Deputy, Cl. GR North

Rev. Doug Fauble, SD
Synodical Deputy, Cl. Grandville

II. Welcome and Opening Worship

Article 3

- The meeting began with a welcome to all in attendance, followed by prayer by Rev. Dave Den Haan, before the delegates enjoyed a noon lunch.
- At 12:30 the group moved from the gathering area to the sanctuary where President Den Haan called for an Executive Session.
- The purpose of this meeting is to consider the matter of Rev. Stephen Hasper's request to be released from his ministry with the Jamestown Christian Reformed Church under Article 17a of the Church Order of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and also to bring healing and peace to the Jamestown church.

III. Background and History

Article 4

- Numbered agendas were handed out, but needed to be returned at meeting's end.
- Rev. Marc Nelesen read part of Article 17a, and expressly stated that there is no malice between either of the two parties. The three reasons for separation are three: **Difference in Vision** as expressed in dreams for the congregation, leadership and worship styles, and preaching; **Irreconcilable Differences** as pastor and congregation; and **UnChrist-like Behavior** of a divisive dynasty in Jamestown CRC.
- Rev. Nelesen provided a short background history of the Jamestown church.
- In the past two years Rev. Hasper and the Jamestown Church have requested and received help from both Classis Georgetown and the denomination's Pastor Church Relations Committee.

IV. Discussion and Recommendations

Article 5

- Motion was made and supported to approve Rev. Stephen Hasper's request for separation from the Jamestown Christian Reformed Church through Article 17a. This was followed by discussion.
- Both Rev. Hasper and Mr. Steve Hekman, vice-president of council, were asked to come forward and share their thoughts and both agreed there is no malice or animosity between the pastor and the church.

Article 6

- Four strategies for the healing of Jamestown Christian Reformed Church:
 - ~JCRC employ a Trained Specialist or seasoned interim pastor
 - ~An oversight committee will be appointed consisting of Revs. Nelesen, Den Haan and one other pastor

- ~Classis Georgetown will be on “standby” relative to JCRC financial crises with particular readiness to provide financial assistance for the church as it bears the cost of a trained specialist or interim pastor
- ~That classis neither blame nor abandon JCRC

- Five strategies for Rev. Hasper:
 - ~Spiritual replenishment
 - ~Therapeutic support
 - ~An oversight committee of Rev. Bob Huisman and 2 other pastors will be appointed
 - ~Connect with Professional Relational Community
 - ~Affiliate with a new church community

Article 7

- **Motion was made supported and carried to approve the request from Rev. Stephen Hasper for separation from the Jamestown Christian Reformed Church through Article 17a.** The synodical deputies concurred with classis’ decision.
- **Motion was MSC to provide and care for both Rev. Hasper and the Jamestown Church as outlined above.**
- **Motion was MSC to authorize and approve the transfer of Rev. Hasper’s ministerial credentials to the Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Hudsonville.**
- President Den Haan and Rev. Nelesen will provide monthly reports to the Transition Team.

V. Closing moments

Article 8

- President Den Haan shared a short message based on Isaiah 66:41 and Ephesians 4:1-13.
- The delegates surrounded Rev. Hasper and Mr. Hekman in hands on prayer.
- Rev. Nelesen led the delegates in singing “You Servants of the Lord Our God.”
- The meeting was dismissed by President Den Haan.