

Session #94
Classis Georgetown
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 17 ,2018
5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Messiah CRC
2900 Springdale Street, Hudsonville, MI 49426



Officers of the Day
President: Rev. Joshua VanDrunen
Vice-President: Rev. Gerry Koning
Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

Our Vision

Classis Georgetown is a community of Christian Reformed Churches in Eastern Ottawa County who live and minister together, in Christ, to transform lives and communities.

I. CREDENTIALS

Article 1

Credentials: Each delegate received a name tag on arrival. All the churches (except for Evergreen Ministries) sent in their credentials prior to the meeting.

Article 2

Delegates in attendance:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries Baldwin Street	Susan LaClear	Bob Palma Paul Mellema Cornie VanderKam	Shelley VanderWal
Bauer Cottonwood Evergreen Ministries Fairway First Hudsonville Forest Grove Georgetown	Tim Holwerda Matt Palsrok no delegates Stan Sturing Dave Jolman Jeff Scripps Jack Dik	Dave Waldner Eric Gladding Ron Brunink Dave Aukeman Chris Bouma Karen Karsten	Matt Voss Andy Ponstein Phil VandenHeuvel Lori Brouwer Greg Assink
Hillcrest Immanuel	Brian Bosscher	Mike Kloosterhouse Tom Swieringa Brian Wigger	
Jamestown Messiah Ridgewood Searchlight Trinity Twelfth Avenue Zutphen	Nate Meldrim Steve Mann Sam Krikke Gerry Koning Mark Bennink Joshua VanDrunen	Hank Bosma Brian Mulder Ray Dennis Jim Pell Dave VanRandwyk David Holkeboer Cal Top	Jack Lucas Ron Bosch Deb DeVries Rose Meekhof Bert Heyboer Jack Buys

Other persons attending Classis:

Staff:

Mr. Jim Roskam
(Classis Coordinator)
Ms. Kathy Jelsema
(Assistant Treasurer/Web Keeper)
Mr. Mel VanderBie
(Treasurer)
Ms. Glenda Tebben
(Stated Clerk)

Guests:

Rev. Joyce Borger (CRCNA)
Ms. Laura Keeley (Faith Formation)
Rev. Jerry VanGroningen
Mr. Patrick D. Coleman (70x7 Life Recovery)
Mr. Fig VanderMolen (Messiah CRC)
Rev. James Evenhouse (12th Avenue CRC)

II. Opening Worship

Article 3

1. President Josh VanDrunen opened this segment of our meeting by welcoming all in attendance and previewing the evening's format.
 - a. Welcome to pastors, deacons, and elders
 - b. A special welcome is given to the guests.
2. President VanDrunen reads the Classis Vision Statement and highlights our Classis' five values. President VanDrunen and Rev. Nate Meldrim (pastor of our host church, Messiah CRC) lead delegates and guests in an opening time of worship.
3. President VanDrunen takes time to explain the evening's agenda.

III. Business of Classis

Article 4

A. Ministry Reports

1. Vision Team, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:

- a. Rev Larry Doonbos and Rev Gerry Koning are thanked for their time on the Vision Team. Rev Josh VanDunen and Rev. Susan LaClear are welcomed.
- b. Jim highlights the improved financial situation in the classis from a year ago.
- c. The Vision Team has had contact with the denominational office to determine who is responsible for various representatives to CRC ministries and agencies.
- d. The grant process is being reevaluated. We look to explore grants in conjunction with the classis values and other classis initiatives.
- e. Rev. VanDrunen thanks Jim and the Vision Team for its work.

2. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reporting

- a. Our Treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reviewed the financial report. He noted that it is encouraging to see the financial support in our classis. He reiterates Jim Roskam's comments; re: the improved financial state of the classis from one year ago.
- b. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the treasurer.**

3. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:

- a. Glenda reviewed her written report, drawing attention the Financial Shalom Project available for pastors
- b. Rev. Mark Bennink will be replacing Rev. Brian Bosscher as a delegate to Synod 2018.
- c. Ministerial credentials of Rev. Terry Scholten were transferred from Ridgewood CRC to Alive Ministries.
- d. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**

4. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Jeff Scripps, reporting

- a. Rev. Scripps reviewed his written report. The committee has met with students who are receiving aid. No new students are seeking aid.
- b. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve \$20,000.00 for Student Aid for 2018-2019.**
- c. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the Student Fund Committee.**

5. Regional Pastors, Rev. Dave Jolman, reporting:

- a. Our regional pastors will be reaching out to all pastors in the classis. Rev. Jolman invites pastors to not hesitate to contact either himself or Rev. Marc Nelesen if there is a need.
- b. The Birkman assessment was taken by most pastors in the classis. The regional pastors hope to build on this by offering a “discover the enneagram” opportunity for pastors who want to grow in self-awareness.
- c. Our regional pastors are looking in to sponsoring a book club that would focus on pastoral leadership.
- d. Rev. Jolman shares the “Pastor’s Spiritual Vitality” tool kit available for pastors. This brochure includes excellent resources for pastors to help tend to their own spiritual health.
- e. Rev. Jolman highlights the Pine Rest Ministry available to pastors and church staff. Brochures are available in each of the delegate’s packets.
- f. Rev. Jolman shared a text message from Rev. Brian Bosscher who was not able to be at our meeting. Brian’s wife has been ill and he sent his sincere thanks to the pastors and churches of Classis Georgetown for rallying around them during their time of need.

6. Credentials Committee, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting

- a. All credentials are in order. Evergreen did not have delegates at the meeting and sends their regrets to Classis.
- b. Forest Grove CRC shared two questions on the credential form:
 - What are our options when we have fewer people willing to serve as elders/deacons?
 - We also have a hard time getting three delegates to a classis meeting. We're not sure what it means or what to do about it.

These questions are important as we carry on with the work of classis and will be referred to the Vision Team. President VanDrunen stresses that it is important to talk with and support each other with these questions.

C. A time of Prayer

1. President VanDrunen reads Psalm 34. This is a Psalm that has meant much to Rev. Brian and Judy Bosscher; *“Those who seek the LORD lack no good thing!”* He invites delegates and guests to share with each other both ministry and individual praises and prayer requests and leads us into a time of prayer around our tables.

III. DINNER IS SERVED FROM 6:15 – 7:00 PM

President VanDrunen gives thanks to Messiah CRC and its staff for hosting our meeting. He turns the floor over to Rev. Nate Meldrim who thanks us for coming and introduces us to the caterers of our evening meal.

Our dinner is prepared and served by *Transformed Catering*, a program established by Remembrance Ranch. The Ranch is a faith-based, non-denominational organization serving at-risk youth in West Michigan. Their executive director, Patrick Adams, shares a history of

Remembrance Ranch and Transformed Catering. We watch of video explaining the program and are served a delicious meal by the teenagers involved in the program.

IV. Presentation: Rev. Joyce Borger

Article 5

The meeting's focus is on Empowering Worship. President VanDrunen welcomes guests from Classis churches who are involved in worship planning and implementation.

Rev. Mark Bennink introduces Rev. Joyce Borger, editor of *Reformed Worship* and *Lift Up Your Hearts*, and director of Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church.

Rev. Borgers leads a presentation entitled, "Worship and Community".

Presentation Highlights:

- There are three definitions of worship: Service in all of life, a ritual event, and praise or honor. The presentation will focus on *worship as a ritual event*.
- Congregations must create a culture of worship and prepare their members. It's important to share stories, understand we are the church and that outreach is a way of life, not a program. Churches must identify the community to which they belong and bring the church to this community. Time is given for table talk around the idea of who is our church "community"?
- Rev. Borger asked the question: Is worship for the congregation or is God the host and recipient of worship? It's must be emphasized that worship is not about us.
- Each congregation must have a document that outlines the beliefs/vision for worship. You must know your theology!

V. Closing Worship:

Article 6

1. President VanDrunen thanks the delegates for their cooperation and positive attitude.
2. President VanDrunen shares words from Hebrews 13.
3. The meeting was dismissed by President VanDrunen. Delegates are encouraged to complete the evaluation form and turn it in before leaving.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note the date of next Classis meeting:

Thursday, October 18, 2018; Time and location TBD