

Session #93
Classis Georgetown
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2018
5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Georgetown CRC – Summit Room
6475 ~ 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI



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 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	Susan LaClear Terry Scholten		Stephanie Elders Shelly VanderWal Rodney DeWeerd
Baldwin Street		Don Hamilton Richard Meyer	
Bauer	Tim Holwerda	Dave VanHuis	Jeff Leegwater
Cottonwood	Matt Palsrok	David DeBoer	
Evergreen Ministries		Kevin Havert	Amy Scheur
Fairway		Scott Jongsma	Cherie Smith
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Steve Schnyders	Ernie Peters
Forest Grove	Jeff Scripps	Chris Bouma	
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Jay Koets	Lori Brouwer Greg Assink
Hillcrest	Ron Bouwkamp	Bruce Applebach	Nick VanDyke
Immanuel		Paul Hoekwater Brian Wigger	Sherri Veders
Jamestown	Dan Gritter	Hank Bosma	Jack Lucas
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Jon Frens	Dave Duimstra
Ridgewood		Ray Dennis	Deb DeVries
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Steve VanHaitsma	Denise Millhoup
Trinity	Gerry Koning	Jerod Aukeman	Nate DeKoster
Twelfth Avenue	Mark Bennink	David Holkeboer	Jack Buys
Zutphen	Joshua VanDrunen	Jack Elgersma	

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. Dave DenHaan (CRCNA)
Ms. Carrie Rodgers (Alive Ministries)
Mr. Bob VandePol (Pine Rest)
Rev. Jerry VanGroningen
Ms. Eileen Zwart (Safe Church)

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. Together we read the Classis Vision Statement. President VanDrunen highlights our Classis' five values and leads delegates and guests in an opening time of worship.
3. President VanDrunen takes time to explain the evening's agenda and highlight's the evaluation form in the packet all delegates and guests received.

III. Business of Classis

Article 4

A. Classis Voting

1. Election of Synodical delegates:

The following pastors were elected to represent Classis Georgetown at the June meeting of Synod of the CRCNA:

First Pastor Delegate, Rev. Brian Bosscher;
Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Jeff Scripps;
First Pastor Alternate, Rev. Mark Bennink;
Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Susan LaClear.

The following elders were elected:

Elder Delegate, Mr. Ray Dennis;
Elder Alternate, Mr. Eric DeVries

No Deacon names were presented. **Motion was made and seconded to appoint Ms. Kathy Jelsema as our deacon representative at Synod.**

Discussion: Ms. Jelsema is a member of Trinity CRC and is on staff there. She is the assistant treasurer of our classis and a member of the Vision Team. Trinity CRC will appoint her as one of their deacons.

Motion carried.

2. Voting for Calvin College Board and Calvin Theological Seminary Boards; Region 10

Calvin College Board – Rev. Chad Pierce
Calvin Theological Seminary Board – Rev. Marc Nelesen

B. Ministry Reports

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

- a. Classis Values: The team continues to keep the Classis Values in front of them as they plan the meetings. Our May meeting will focus on Empowering Worship. Rev. Joyce Borger, director of Worship Ministries of the CRCNA will be with us.
- b. To show appreciation to those who serve the denomination on our behalf, the Vision Team decided to offer an honorarium of \$600 to the elder and deacon who will be the delegate to Synod from Classis Georgetown.
- c. The Vision Team has submitted the names of David VanRandwyk and Jim Roskam to the CRCNA Executive Committee to be considered for Dave DenHaan's replacement on the Council of Delegates, the newly created governance body for the CRCNA.
- d. Rev. Dave Den Haan has left Fairway CRC and is now working in the denomination's Pastor Church Relations. The Vision Team appointed Rev. Gerry Koning to serve as the counselor for Fairway CRC.
- e. Jim highlighted the Classis Habitat for Humanity project. Property has been purchased near 48th Avenue and Baldwin Street in Hudsonville and ground-breaking will be very soon. Jim will continue to communicate with church representatives about how best churches can be involved in this project.
- f. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the Classis Vision Team.**

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.
- b. Financial information packets for churches were distributed to deacons present at the meeting.
- c. **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 to a Safe-Church Guide for Councils made available to churches through CRCNA. If a church needs a copy, contact Glenda or our Safe-Church representative, Ms. Eileen Zwart.
- b. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to send to grant honorable emeritation status to Rev. Dan Gritter effective April 7, 2018, for reason of age.**
- c. **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 welcomes more students to apply for aid and encourages churches who have members wanting to study to become involved in ministry to apply. The deadline to apply is spring of 2019.
- b. The committee continues to discuss ways to collect from persons who received aid but are not working as pastors or involved in ministry.

5. Regional Pastors, Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman, reporting:

- a. Rev. Jolman began to serve as a Regional Pastor in January. He is encouraged in his role thus far as he continues to make connections with the pastors in our classis.
- b. Rev. Marc Nelesen highlights the Pine Rest Ministry available to pastors and church staff. Brochures are available in each of the delegate's packets.

- c. Regional pastors and our classis coordinator are available for conversation and consultation with councils, pastors, and anyone involved in church leadership.

6. Credentials Committee, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting

- a. All credentials are in order.
- b. Cottonwood Church noted that their overture did not make the agenda. They would like to set up a time to get the overture before the Vision Team and Classis.
The Vision Team will continue to discuss this overture and will keep classis up to date of progress and decisions.

C. Classis Farewells

As a classis we say farewell to two pastors:

1. Rev. Dave DenHaan: Rev. Marc Nelesen shared heartfelt words of appreciation and farewell to Dave as Dave transitions to his new role in Pastor-Church Relations office of the CRCNA. Dave thanked the Classis for the privilege of working and ministering with us for 18 years.
2. Rev. Dan Gritter: Rev. Dave Jolman thanked Dan for his servant heart and praying witness. Dan is “finishing well” and we are grateful. Mr. Hank Bosma, an elder at Jamestown CRC, also shared words of farewell on behalf of Jamestown. Dan thanked the classis for allowing him to work and minister in our classis. He shared his passion for outreach and highlighted the CityFest Grand Rapids evangelistic event which will take in September 2018 and encouraged all churches to become involved.

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

President VanDrunen gives thanks to Georgetown CRC and its staff for hosting our meeting. He leads in a word of prayer, giving thanks for Rev. Dave DenHaan and Rev. Dan Gritter, as well as offering thanks for dinner.

IV. Presentation: Mr. Bob VandePol

Article 5

The meeting’s focus is on Healthy Leaders. Rev. Marc Nelesen introduces Mr. Bob VandePol, Executive Director of Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services' Employee Assistance and Church Assistance Programs.

Mr. VandePol leads a presentation entitled, “Who Bounces Back? Characteristics of Resilient People.”

Presentation Highlights: Life can be very, very difficult. During challenging circumstances some people remain victims, some quickly bounce back as survivors, and some demonstrate post-traumatic growth to emerge as “survivors”. The same reactions can be seen in organizations experiencing times of high stress. Bob described characteristics of those who bounce back and offered personal and organizational resilience strategies.

The PowerPoint will be made available to churches soon. Bob welcomes anyone to contact him if more information or follow-up is needed.

V. Business of Classis (continued)

A. Classis as a Classroom

Rev. Marc Nelesen reviewed the “Classis as Classroom” handout. The Vision Team seeks to present a model that advances a culture of learning for leaders within the classis. The goal is to create a learning environment, as opposed to a teaching environment, for future commissioned pastors in our classis.

VI. Closing Worship:

Article 6

1. President VanDrunen leads us into a time of prayer around our tables. Delegates and guests share together their requests and praises and spend time in prayer. We end with a corporate time of prayer for our colleague, Rev. Nancy Boote, whose father is quite ill and for Keith and Laurie Jensen (missionaries to China, supported by Ridgewood CRC) whose visas have not been renewed.
2. President VanDrunen thanked the delegates for their cooperation and positive attitude.
3. All in attendance sing together "The New Doxology"
4. 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, May 17, 2018; theme: Empowering Worship, Time and location TBD