



Session #88

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 18, 2017
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Evergreen Ministries
4512 ~ 48th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven
Vice-President: Rev. Gerry Koning
Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

I. CREDENTIALS

Article 1

Credentials: Each delegate received a name tag on arrival. 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>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries		Rol Scholma	Shelly VanderWall
Baldwin Street		Richard DeBruine Don Wierenga	
Bauer	Tim Holwerda	Dave Waldner	Matt Vos
Cottonwood	Matt Palsrok	Ralph DenHartigh	Aaron Dozeman
Evergreen Ministries	Larry Doornbos	Tom Kragt	

Fairway	David DenHaan	Steve Laninga	Kyle Kunnen
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Jeff Brinks	Jake Vlietstra
Forest Grove	Jeff Scripps	Jud Gebben	Derek VanDam
Friendship Chapel	Jeff Stam	Laurie Slagter	
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Ed DeYoung	Greg Assink
Hillcrest	Brian Bosscher	Steve Dykstra	Kim VandeVusse Nick VanDyke
Immanuel	Bob Huisman	Joe Lems	
Jamestown	Dan Gritter	Hank Bosma	Jeff DeVries
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Brian Mulder	Jared Engelsman
Ridgewood	Len Kuyvenhoven	Roger Meekhof	Deb DeVries
Searchlight	Stan Drenth	Herb Kraker	Jan Van Drie
Trinity	Gerry Koning	Dan Postma	
Twelfth Avenue	Mark Bennink	David Holkeboer	Allen Broene
Zutphen	Josh VanDrunen	Ed Curths	

Other persons attending Classis:

Staff:

Mr. Jim Roskam
 Ms. Kathy Jelsema
 Mr. Mel VanderBie
 Ms. Glenda Tebben
Synodical Deputies:
 Rev. Bob Boersma
 Rev. Doug Fauble
 Rev. Henry Admiraal

Guests:

Ms. Laura Keeley (Faith Formation)
 Ms. Christine Dekker (Faith Formation)
 Rev. Jerry VanGroningen
 Rev. Josh Benton
 Rev. Duane VanderBrug
 Mrs. Adele VanderBrug
 Ms. Tricia Bosma
 Ms. Kori Scholtens
 Ms. Bev Harkema
 Ms. Carla Seabolt

II. Opening Worship

Article 3

1. President Len Kuyvenhoven opened this segment of our meeting by welcoming all in attendance and leading in prayer.
2. Opening Worship is led by Rev. David DenHaan. We sing "Be Still, for the Presence" accompanied by Rev. Josh VanDrunen. Rev. Den Haan reads Philippians 3:4b-14, highlighting Paul's commitment to growing closer to and serving Jesus and the work of discipleship. These words of Paul connect us to Laura Keeley's presentation on Faith Formation later in the meeting.
3. We sing "Gracious Spirit" and together we profess our faith through the words of The Apostle's Creed
4. Rev. Den Haan offers a prayer for the meeting of Classis Georgetown

III. Classis Work – Part 1

Article 4

A. Ministry Reports

1. Vision Team, Rev. Gerry Koning reporting:

- a. Friendship Chapel: Rev. Koning invites Rev. Jeff Stam (pastor emeritus of Friendship Chapel) to address the delegates about the completion of Friendship's ministry. Rev. Stam shares the difficulty of the process of closing Friendship Chapel and gives thanks for the assistance of Classis Georgetown and the Vision Team. Friendship has been sold to Sunrise Ministries (RCA) and they're excited to bless the community through their ministry.
Rev. Larry Doornbos offers a prayer of thanks for the blessing that Friendship Chapel has been in the Jenison/Hudsonville community for 37 years and asks God to bless the next steps of the members. He gives thanks that our God is in beginnings and endings.
- b. Candidacy: There is a lot of confusion in regards to the process and the requirements for candidacy. The Vision Team is going to work on a process to present to Classis which reflects their desire for healthy leaders to be developed in our Classis. This process will also include a better defined path to become a Commissioned Pastor.
- c. Pine Rest Counseling services: Rev. Koning reminds delegates of the agreement with Pine Rest to provide counseling services to the staff and their families of churches in Classis Georgetown.

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

- a. Our Treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reviewed the report. He noted that receipts are up and the cash flow is where it needs to be. A promissory note in the amount of \$20,000 was given to Friendship Chapel. This will be repaid when the property sells.
- b. **Motion is made and seconded to take \$2300.00 from restricted funds to help Strong Tower Ministries get their building up to code.**
Discussion: Rev. Koning explained the Strong Towers is a church plant of Trinity CRC, ministering to East African Muslims. Their building, at 2851 Buchanan SW, requires some updates and modifications.
Motion is carried.
- c. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.**

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

- a. Received/Transferred ministerial credentials:
 - Received credentials of Rev. Bernard Tol from First CRC, South Holland, IL (Classis Illiana) to Cottonwood CRC. Rev. Tol has retired to this area.
 - Received credentials of Rev. Caitlyn Visser from Eastern Avenue CRC (Classis Grand Rapids East) to Ridgewood CRC. Rev. Visser has worked as a Hospice Chaplain and is presently on maternity leave.
 - Transferred credentials of Rev. James Busscher from Hillcrest CRC to Community CRC, Roselawn, IN (Classis Illiana)
- b. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Ms. Lynrae Frens as the representative of Classis Georgetown on the World Renew Board of Delegates.**
Ms. Frens is a member of Messiah CRC.
- c. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to send to grant honorable emeritation status to Rev. Stanley Drenth effective June 25, 2017, for reason of age.**
- 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. The following recommendations were received:
- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Tricia Bosma (Hillcrest CRC) @ CTS | \$2,335.00 |
| Chris Bosma (Forest Grove CRC) @CTS | 6,330.00 |
| Steve Hull (Fairway CRC) @ CTS | 1,770.00 |
| Noelle Jacobs (Alive Ministries) @ Western | <u>5,208.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$15,643.00 |
- b. **Motion was MSC to accept the recommendations for funding the Student Fund Committee approve the work of the Student Loan Fund Committee and accept the recommendation for funding.**

5. Regional Pastors, Rev. Bob Huisman reporting:

- a. The regional pastors see their role as praying for and encouraging the pastors in Classis Georgetown. They encourage pastors to reach out to them.
- b. Rev. Huisman gave a sneak peak of a new offer for pastors:the Birkman Method, a psychological assessment. This will be made available for a very low cost. Taking this on-line tool will allow pastors to learn more about themselves and to open avenues for talking about gifts and strengths.

6. Credentials Committee, Rev. Brian Bosscher and Mr. Roger Meekhof reporting

- a. All credentials are in order.

B. Classis Georgetown Project: Habitat for Humanity

Jim Roskam reports on the Habitat project. He hosted a breakfast meeting on April 29 and 16 of the 18 churches in Classis were represented. Jim has been meeting with church liaisons and with Habitat personnel. Needs now are property, applicants, and money. The hope is to break ground by August 1.

C. September meeting date

- 1. Motion is made and seconded to move the autumn classis meeting from September to October.**
Grounds: This would move the meeting to a less busy time of the church calendar.
Motion is carried.
2. The Planning Committee and Vision Team will set the autumn date for a Thursday in October.

D. Emeritation of Rev. Stan Drenth

Rev. Kuyvenhoven presented Rev. Drenth with a retirement certificate and thanked him for his many years of work, service and ministry in Classis Georgetown. Rev. Drenth addressed the delegates. He gave gratitude to God for the privilege of working at Searchlight and in Classis Georgetown.

E. Recognition of the retirements of classis employees Rev. Duane VanderBrug and Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen.

1. President Kuyvenhoven welcomed Rev. Duane and Mrs. Adele VanderBrug to our meeting and offered kind words of thanks for Duane's work in Classis Georgetown. Duane gave thanks for the privilege of serving His Lord by working and ministering in Classis Georgetown.

2. Although Ms. Dee VanHeuvelen was not present, President Kuyvenhoven spoke words of thanks and honored Dee for her work in Classis Georgetown as Stated Clerk and Administrative Assistant.

IV. Dinner for Delegates and Guests

Rev. Kuyvenhoven offered a prayer for our meal. The meal was prepared and served by staff of Evergreen Ministries

V. Classis Work, Part 2

Article 5

A. Classis Action on proposed Article 17 related to Rev. Josh Benton and Friendship Chapel.

1. Background and History

- a. Rev. Marc Nelesen welcomes the synodical deputies and offers a prayer for God's guidance in the discussions
- b. Documents were handed out, but needed to be returned at meeting's end, due to confidentiality
- c. Rev. Marc Nelesen read part of Article 17, and expressly stated that there is no malice between either of the two parties. The reason for separation is: The unsustainability and closure of Friendship Chapel's ministry.
- d. Rev. Nelesen noted that Church Order gives Classis this role.

2. Discussion and Recommendations

- a. **Motion was made and supported to approve Article 17 release as presented in documents: Request from Friendship Chapel for separation from Rev. Joshua Benton through Article 17 due to the unsustainability and closure of Friendship Chapel's ministry.** This was followed by discussion.
- b. Five transition recommendations for Rev. Benton:
 - ~ Affiliate with a new church community
 - ~ Meet monthly with Oversight team of Rev. Huisman, Rev. Jolman and Rev. Scripps
 - ~ Therapeutic support
 - ~ Ministry Assessment
 - ~ Spiritual Replenishment

It is noted that Rev. Benton has not waited for classis to approve these recommendations. He has begun them already.

- c. **Motion is carried. The synodical deputies concurred with classis' decision.**
- d. **Motion was MSC to encourage the Vision Team to look into the possibility of supplemental income for Rev. Benson after the severance runs out.**
- e. Rev. Benton has requested that his ministerial credentials be transferred to Evergreen Ministries.
- f. The Oversight team of Rev. Huisman, Rev. Jolman and Rev. Scripps will continue to furnish the Vision Team with updates.

B. Faith Formation Presentation – Laura Keeley

We welcome Ms. Laura Keeley from CRCNA Faith Formation Ministries. Faith Formation Ministries encourages and equips Christian Reformed ministry leaders in their calling to shape lifelong faith formation in their context so that all generations have an intentional and resilient faith. Laura is a Regional Catalyzer for Faith Formation Ministries for congregations in Michigan. Through toolkits and resources, Laura gave a thorough presentation of what

Faith Formation is. Church delegates and guests were given time to discuss and share how faith formation would look in their individual churches.

VI: Closing Worship:

Article 8

1. Celebration of Holy Communion led by Rev. Mark Bennink and Rev. Larry Doornbos.
2. All in attendance sang "Lord, Be Glorified"
3. The meeting was dismissed by President Kuyvenhoven.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note the date of next Classis meetings:

June 15 – Hillcrest CRC – 11:30 AM

At this meeting we will examine Candidate Cody Zuiderveen