

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

Session #74

WORSHIP MINUTES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Signatures Coffee Shop
6375 Balsam Drive
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426

Officers of the Day

President.....Rev. Gerry Koning
Vice-President....Rev. Mark Bennink
Clerk of Classis.....Harold Postma

Prior meeting activity

Article 1

As each delegate arrives he receives his name tag. Delegates attending Classis Georgetown for the first time sign the Form of Subscription. This constitutes the "Calling of the Role." Churches that have not previously sent their credentials provide them at this time.

Article 2

The credentials are given to the delegates from the Cottonwood Church who will serve as the Credentials Committee. They will report later in the meeting.

Welcome and Opening

Article 3

Rev. Gerry Koning, Pastor of the Trinity Church of Grandville, calls the meeting to order. He welcomes all the delegates to this meeting of Classis Georgetown. He especially welcomes visitors and those who are attending Classis for the first time. He then opens the meeting with prayer.

Article 4

The following are the delegates in attendance:

CHURCH	PASTOR	ELDER
Alive Ministries Baldwin Street	Terry Scholten Gerard Van Groningen	Mel Vander Bie Floyd Brouwer

Bauer
Cottonwood Heights
Evergreen Ministries
Fairway
First Hudsonville
First Jenison

Forest Grove
Friendship Chapel
Georgetown
Hillcrest
Immanuel
Jamestown
Messiah
Ridgewood
Searchlight
Trinity
Twelfth Avenue
Zutphen

Tim Holwerda
Matthew Palsrok
Larry Doornbos
David Den Haan
David Jolman

Jeffrey Scripps
Leonard Troast
Jack Dik
Brian Bosscher
Robert Huisman
Steve Hasper
Terry Genzink
Kevin Vande Streek
Stan Drenth
Gerald Koning
Mark Bennink
Joshua Van Drunen

Peter Van Weerdhuizen
Dave Sjoerdsma
Tom Kragt
Don Herrema
Gary De Haan
Jack Hager
Cal Sall
Ron Koedam
Shawn Vander Lugt
Duane Hinken
Chad Scheur
Dale Venema
Dan Buning
Don Veltman
Bernie Winkle
Chad Musch
Gary Vander Hiede
Merle Koops
Bob Ponstein

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug, Advisor
Transition Chairman

Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf
Criminal Justice Chaplaincy

Harold Postma
Clerk of Classis

Tricia Bosma
10:24 Team Leader

Kathy Jelsma
Asst. Treasurer

Dee Van Heuvelen
Secretary Transition Team

Scott Schermer
Presenter

John De Vries
Presenter

Ross Kruithof
Presenter

Christy Kaptein
Presenter

Article 5

Rev. Koning visits with the group regarding the celebration of the Lord's Supper. He shares with us the significance of this blessing, how it relates to our walk in life and how it demonstrates a most perfect "collaborative" relationship. Rev. David Den Haan and Rev. Josh Van Drunen distribute the elements. We are asked to eat and drink and reflect on what our Lord did for us in His life, death and resurrection.

Article 6

Rev. David Den Haan, from the Transition Team, explains how we will continue in our further study of "Collaborative Relationships." He introduces five persons who will relate how critical collaboration with others is in their area of work and service. He prefaces each of their visits with a passage from Scripture.

- A. Genesis 26:1a is read. Rev. John De Vries, Chaplain at Metro Hospital, visits us on how, each day, a "team" of persons with a variety of skills meet and share recent developments on the status of each of the patients for which they are responsible. This includes the nurses, doctors, housekeepers and social workers.
- B. Hebrews 10:25 is read. Mr. Ross Kruithof, GDK Company Construction Manager for the recent addition to the Fairway Church, shares how the workers on a building project meet and visit regarding all the phases of activity in either remodeling an existing structure or constructing a new building. This includes iron workers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters and masons.
- C. Ephesians 4:4-6 is read. Mr. Scott Schermer, teacher and administrator at Jenison Christian School, shares with us about how there are regularly held "child study" meetings. These meetings include teachers, administrators, parents and any other person needed in finding a solution to a problem or how best to assist the student in further academic or behavioral patterns.
- D. John 17:20,21 is read. Because Doug Aukeman is not able to be at the meeting, Rev. Josh Van Drunen reads how, in his work as the manager of an vehicle repair shop, a thorough diagnosis of a problem is made before they can proceed with repair. This includes discussions with mechanics, service manuals and the manager of the job.
- E. Acts 2:44,45 is read. Christy Kaptein, the manager of the restaurant where we are holding our meeting, shares with us all the preparations that had to be made to accommodate Classis. This includes the development of the menu, preparing the venue for the meeting and providing the service necessary to complete the task. This involves cooks, waitresses, janitors and an entire staff.

Article 7

Rev. Den Haan introduces Ms. Tricia Bosma who is the Coordinator of the 10:24 Teams. Ms. Bosma reads Romans 12:2 and shares with us the process that is being put in place to train people to assist with the visits at the churches of Classis. This is not a traditional "Church Visit" but a conversation with the leaders of the congregation regarding the next step toward greater spiritual and organizational health. The training is bathed in prayer and spiritual truths.

Ms. Bosma describes the training sessions. They are usually three hours in length. They include three factors: 1. Asking Powerful Questions, 2. Listening Attentively and 3. Using the Power of Silence (to leave time for church leaders to hear what the Spirit is saying).

Rev. Brian Bosscher gives an evaluation of the program and invites Rev. Josh Van Drunen of the Zutphen Church and Rev. Gerry Koning of the Trinity Church to share their experiences of having had the 10:24 teams at their church Council meetings. The Council of a church will meet with a team once a year (more if necessary).

The 10:24 teams will consist of one pastor and one layperson from a church. Each church of Classis is encouraged to find persons in their congregation who would be capable and willing to be part of a 10:24 team. They will be trained to visit other churches to assist them in their spiritual development. The churches are then encouraged to share their experiences at the next Classis meeting to be an encouraging factor in the life of the churches of Classis. The next training session for 10:24 teams is February 21, 2013 - just prior to the next session of Classis Georgetown.

A prayer is offered for the continued development and success of the 10:24 program.

Article 8

Rev. Josh Van Drunen offers a prayer for the Lord's blessing on our afternoon session and also for the time of fellowship over the dinner which will follow at this time.

We Break for a time of Food and Fellowship

We Hear from God's Servants in Classis

Article 9

The churches and the delegates to Classis have received a written report from our delegates to the Synod of 2012. At this time, Rev. Tim Holwerda and Rev. Terry Genzink share with us their personal reactions and experiences at the Synod of 2012. They seemed to have received a bigger blessing from their Committee meetings than from the plenary sessions. They encourage Elder Delegates to submit their names for delegation to the Synod of 2013. They also take questions from the floor. This is received for information.

Article 10

Rev. Tim Holwerda, Chairman of the Student Fund Committee gives us an update on some changes that have taken place in the persons whom we are currently supporting.

- A. One of the recipients has gone from full time to half time in his studies at the Seminary. Another person has asked for assistance with his half time studies. Since this change will not alter the budget of the Committee, both of these requests were approved. These persons are then introduced by the use of power point.
- B. Rev. Holwerda introduces the delegates to a suggested change in the bylaws of the Committee. A motion is made to approve a change in the by-laws of the Committee. The change will strike from the list of requirements to apply for Student Financial Aid: "A Statement of health from a medical doctor." The motion finds support and carries.
- C. Rev. Holwerda introduces another suggested change in the bylaws of the Student Fund Committee. It is moved to add under Section 10.a. a line to read "Christian Reformed Ministry shall include those persons working with international mission agencies outside of our denomination that are endorsed or partnering under a CRCNA agency." These agencies would include World Missions, CRWRC, Back to God Ministries and the like. The motion finds support and carries.

A motion is made to approve the work of the Student Fund Committee. The motion is supported and carries.

Article 11

Classis Treasurer, Mel Vander Bie, gives a review of classical and denominational receipts and expenditures for 2012 to date.

- A. The financial information is reviewed by fund and area. There is a slight increase in the amounts that have been sent to the Treasurer for the year to date compared to 2011. The Treasurer takes remarks and questions from the floor. This report is received for information.
- B. The Treasurer then presents the proposed Classical and Denominational Budgets for 2013. He reviews all the changes by item. There are some very moderate increases in the budgets that have been proposed. The total increase amounts to a 4% total increase. The number of members on which the individual church amounts is based is much the same as in 2012. The amount of Ministry Share per member will remain close to the \$1.00 per day per member amount that exists in the present year budget. The Treasurer takes questions from the floor on the various budget items.

C. The Treasurer shares with the delegates his appreciation for the help he receives from the Assistant Treasurer. The work of accounting and reporting has been made much easier with this assistance.

A motion to approve the classical and denominational budgets for 2013 is made and supported. The motion carries.

The number of Professing Members in the Georgetown and Jamestown churches is lower than in the previous year. It is moved and supported to approve the reduction in Ministry Shares for these churches based on the drop in membership. The motion carries.

A motion is made to add the Uganda Exchange Fund to the list of Classically Approved Causes for offerings. The motion is supported. The Treasurer explains the reasons for this addition and its relationship to Classis. The motion carries.

A motion to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer is made. This motion finds support and carries.

Article 12

The Clerk of Classis distributes a number of notices that have been received since the agenda for this meeting was distributed. He reviews each of these items. The items of major significance are:

- A. There is a letter from the Board of Trustees indicating that the term of service of the current Interim Executive Director has been extended for one year to allow the Board additional time to interview candidates for this position.
- B. There is a report from the Denomination on the activities of each of the Agencies for the last quarter.
- C. There is a list of the denominational agencies that need the current delegate from Region 10 to be re-nominated and a form for each of the churches in Classis to nominate a person from the Clergy to serve on the Board of Calvin Seminary from our region (Region 10).
- D. There is a list of persons who are currently serving the denomination (from Region 10) and classis. Several of these positions need a new person to fill them since second terms of service will expire at the end of 2012. Each church is encouraged to send a list of nominees for each of these positions to the Clerk before our next meeting so that a ballot can be prepared. The names of persons nominated for the Seminary position should also be sent to the clerk because he needs to fill out a supporting form so that this information can be sent to the denominational office.

A motion to approve the work of the Clerk of Classis is made and supported. The motion carries.

Article 13

Rev. Leonard Troast, Interim Pastor of Friendship Chapel, relates some of the difficulties they experience in getting persons to attend Classis as a delegate. The main reasons for this problem are that they have very few male elders and they are frequently unable to attend because of work requirements. They do have several female elders who would be willing to attend but at this point Classis does not permit female delegates. He asks Classis to reconsider this limitation. Several years ago, Classis voted on this issue and the motion did not carry but only by a very small margin. This is referred to the Transition Team for study and a recommendation to be made at our next meeting. Friendship Chapel is also encouraged to bring a motion to Classis concerning this issue.

Article 14

The delegates from the Cottonwood Church, who are functioning as the Credentials Committee, report that there are no issues on the Credentials that need Classis attention at this meeting. The Hillcrest Church has a new youth pastor and wishes to have him ordained as a "Commissioned Pastor." This will need to be addressed by Classis. This will be done at a later meeting.

Article 15

Rev. David Den Haan reports for the Transition Team.

- A. He acknowledges the issue regarding the approval of female delegates at Classis and the Transition Team will discuss this issue.
- B. He brings a motion to the floor asking for the extension of the terms of service of Rev. Duane Vander Brug as Chairman of the Transition Team and Ms. Dee Van Heuvelen as the Secretary of the Transition Team both for a period of one year. The motion is supported and approved.
- C. He shares with Classis that "Job Descriptions" for all new positions are in progress.
- D. He asks the churches to invite a 10:24 team to a meeting of the church leaders.
- E. He encourages "honoring our covenant together." This means that a pastor is given time and opportunity to devote to the 10:24 work.
- F. He shares that an "evaluation of Transition Team" efforts is in progress.

A motion to approve the work of the Transition Team is made and supported. The motion carries.

Article 16

The Chair introduces Glen Van Andel, contact person for "Celebration Fellowship Church," a church inside one of the Ionia, Michigan prisons. He visits with us about the work of the Lord that is taking place inside of the prison and how men are being brought to the Lord as a result of this ministry. He introduces Jimmy Erikson, a "citizen" who benefitted from this ministry and has accepted Christ in his life. Jimmy shares with us his life transformation and now his work with persons, such as he, who have been released from prison and are seeking to serve the Lord on the "outside."

Article 17

President Koning uses this event as Classis comes to a close. He asks those who wish to come forward and lay their hands on Jimmy Erikson while Rev. Joshua Van Drunen prays for him, his work and the Lord's blessing on our meeting.

Article 18

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for February 21, 2013. The location has yet to be determined. Items for the Agenda should be in the hands of the Clerk by January 5, 2013.

We leave to love and serve the Lord!