

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

Session #72

WORSHIP MINUTES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Kuyper College
3333 East Beltline
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525

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. This constitutes the calling of the roll. Delegates attending Classis Georgetown for the first time sign the Form of Subscription. Churches that have not previously sent their credentials provide them at this time.

Article 2

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

Welcome and Worship

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 those who are attending Classis for the first time.

Article 4

The following are the delegates in attendance:

CHURCH	PASTOR	ELDER
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Mel Vander bie
Baldwin Street	Gerard Van Groningen	Floyd Brouwer
Bauer	Tim Holwerda	Gary Tamminga
Cottonwood Heights	Matthew Palsrok	David Sjoerdsma
Evergreen Ministries	Larry Doornbos	Rev. Tom Kragt
Fairway	David Den Haan	Roger Dykstra
First Hudsonville	David Jolman	Dan Helms
First Jenison		Ken Doornbos
		Donald Wierenga
Forest Grove	Jeffrey Scripps	Ric Van Dis
Friendship Chapel		
Georgetown	Jack Dik	John Van Regenmorter
Hillcrest		John Van Abbema

Immanuel Jamestown	Robert Huisman	Jim Aukeman Jack Wierenga
Messiah Ridgewood	Terry Genzink Kevin Vande Streek	Dave Rozeboom Evan Cuperus
Searchlight Trinity Twelfth Avenue Zutphen	Gerald Koning Mark Bennink Joshua Van Drunen	Jay Milkamp Jack Elgersma

Other persons attending Classis:

Duane Vander Brug, Advisor Classis Transition Team	Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf Criminal Justice Chaplaincy
Harold Postma Clerk of Classis	Melvin Vander Bie Treasurer of Classis
Dr. Nicholas Kroeze President, Kuyper College	Rev. Norman Thomasma Director, Denominational Pastoral Ministires
Kathy Jelsema Classis Assistant Treasurer	Dee Van Heuvelen, Secretary Classis Transition Team

Article 5

Rev. Gerry Koning, member of the Classical Transition Team and Pastor of the Trinity Church reads from I Corinthians 4:1 and shares with us the theme and purpose of the meeting.

At this time, Dr. Nicholas Kroeze, President of Kuyper College is introduced. Dr. Kroeze welcomes Classis to their facility. He then reads from Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world." He shares with us the purposes and goals of Kuyper College. Each student is given a candle at their Commencement ceremony. This is to draw attention to the graduate for several purposes. The first is to develop and demonstrate their relationship to the Lord. The goal of the college is to develop character formation - in the light of scripture. The light will also emphasize the call each student has to serve the Lord. Each student can illuminate his space and enable others in developing their relationship with Christ. He also reads Micah 6:8 where we are told to develop an attitude of service for those less blessed than we. This is the attitude that describes the general attitude of the current student body.

Article 6

The Chair now introduces Rev. Norman Thomasma. Rev. Thomasma is the Director of the Pastor/Church Relations office of the denomination. He reads to us from Ephesians 4:11 and 12. He shares with us some of the "Turmoil vs. Fermentation" that can take place within a church. Some of the work that is being done in his office surrounds the efforts to "destigmatize" the effects of Article 17 of the Church Order. Their office attempts to manage the profiles of pastors seeking a new church and those of churches seeking new pastors. The method of "telling the story" of each goes a long way to developing Pastoral Research and Pastoral Listening. The method of telling the story can eliminate the "them vs. me" atmosphere in the relationship between pastor and congregation.

Article 7

Rev. Mark Bennink closes this session with a prayer of thanks and also asks for the Lord's blessing as we break for supper and fellowship with one another over our food and drink.

Article 8

When we return to our agenda, the Chair introduces Rev. John Van Regenmorter. He visits with us regarding the development and use of Healthy Leaders in our churches. He shares with us some of the "Lessons I have learned along the way." He talks with us regarding how each of us can "finish well." He shares with us his recent experience in the physical difficulties he is experiencing - which is prompting his retirement at this time.

Classis has received a letter from the Georgetown Church asking Classis to approve the retirement of Rev. Van Regenmorter for reasons of age and health. A motion is made to approve this request. The motion finds support and carries.

Rev. Koning leads us in a prayer of thanks for the work and career of Rev. Van Regenmorter and a blessing on him as leaves full time service to the Lord in the church.

Article 9

Classis enters into a time of Collaborative Relationships. The members are given an opportunity to share some of the events transpiring in their churches:

1. Elder Ken Doornbos shares some new starts taking place in the First Jenison Church.
2. Rev. KC Vande Streek and Elder Evan Cuperus talk about the efforts taking place in Ridgewood church in efforts to find an interim pastor and in their search for a full time pastor.
3. Rev, Terry Scholten brings Classis up to date on the growth in numbers and the worship that takes place at Alive Ministries.
4. Rev. Mark Bennink shares some of the challenges facing the Twelfth Avenue Church and the work being carried on in their community.
5. Rev. Jeffrey Scripps talks about the new growth that is taking place in the Forest Grove community and how this is positively affecting the Forest Grove Church.
6. Rev. Gerry Koning gives us an update on the activity taking place at the Trinity Church.

Article 10

A time of prayer is held led by Rev. Bob Huisman. The delegates and visitors gather around their tables to share a time of prayer for the churches of Classis and the efforts that are being made in each church to reach out to the community and strengthen the members of their churches.

Article 11

A ballot is presented to the members so a vote can be taken on delegates for the Synod of 2012. The results of the ballot are:

First Pastor Delegate	Rev. Terry Genzink
Second Pastor Delegate	Rev. Tim Holwerda

First Pastor Alternate	Rev. David Den Haan
Second Pastor Alternate	Rev. Larry Doornbos

First Elder Delegate	Mr. Carl Wiersum
Second Elder Delegate	Mr. Ken Schaaf

Article 12

The Chair introduces Ms. Eileen Zwart, Classis Director of Safe Church Teams. She shares with us the continuing efforts being carried on to make sure each member in each church receives the complete care and safety needed for the

programs of the church. There is a "Safe Church" team in each of the churches of Classis. This is received for information.

Article 13

Rev. Tim Holwerda reports for the Student Fund Committee. He reports that the committee is receiving requests for assistance and asks for the permission of Classis to review applications for assistance for persons not currently attending Calvin Seminary. This would require the re-editing the bylaws of Classis. There is no motion. His work is received for information.

Article 14

A motion is made by the Transition Team to permit them to select the Chair of Classis and to allow the same person to serve repeatedly. This will allow the Transition Team a period of consistency so that their work can be more effective. They ask for this deviance from Church Order rules to last for one year. The motion finds support and carries.

Article 15

Mel Vander Bie, the Treasurer of Classis presents the most recent financial materials. A "final" report for the 2011 year is reviewed. There could be some changes in the report if additional funds are received for 2011 in February and March of this year. He also reviews the new format for the financial reports for Classis. Since we are functioning under the Transition Team, all funds have been combined into one fund and one report. This will be the procedure for the foreseeable future. He reviews the material and responds to questions from the floor.

A motion to approve the work of the Classical Treasurer is made and supported. The motion carries.

Article 16

Harold Postma, the Clerk of Classis, reviews his work since our previous meeting. He shares that we are awaiting the credentials of Rev. Tom Kragt from the Reformed Church. As soon as they arrive he will share this information with the Transition Team. He also shares the results of the ballot taken earlier in this meeting. He responds to questions from the floor.

A motion to approve the work of the Clerk is made. It finds support and carries.

Article 17

The delegates from the Ridgewood Church, who have functioned as the Credentials Committee, report at this time. There is an item from the Evergreen Ministries that Rev. Tom Kragt from that church has asked to have his ministerial credentials transferred from the Reformed Church in American to the Christian Reformed in North America. He is being called by the Evergreen Church under Article 8b of the Church Order as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments. They also report that the credentials received from the Jamestown Church indicate that there are no delegates from that church at this session of Classis. They are absent with Notice.

A motion to approve the work of the Credentials committee is made and supported. The motion carries.

Article 18

Rev. Bob Huisman reports on the work of the 10/24 teams since our last meeting. One of the churches they visited was the Trinity Church. They had

a very fine meeting and were able to assist the church in its growth and programs. This is received for information.

Article 19

Rev Terry Genzink, the Regional Pastor, makes a brief report on the reason for the absence of any delegates from the Jamestown Church. This is received for information. Rev. Genzink offers a prayer for the Church.

Article 20

Since our Agenda has been completed, the meeting is adjourned. The Chair gives thanks to our host, Kuyper College, and thanks them for their fine meeting place and their gracious hospitality. He shares that our next meeting will be held at 3:30 PM on May 10, 2012 at the Signatures restaurant in Hudsonville.

Our meeting is closed with the singing of the four stanzas of the hymn "The Day You Gave Us, Lord, is ended." This is concluded with "Amen."