

Session #96
Classis Georgetown
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 18, 2018
4:45 PM to 7:45 PM
Alive Ministries
263 Church Street, Jenison, MI 49428



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. Sixteen churches sent in their credentials prior to the meeting. Evergreen Ministries sent their regrets that no one would be representing their church.

Article 2

Delegates in attendance:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries Baldwin Street	Susan LaClear	Rol Scholma Paul Mellema Cornie VanderKam Doug Elders	Brian Karsten Duane Vork
Bauer Cottonwood Fairway First Hudsonville Forest Grove Georgetown Hillcrest Immanuel Jamestown Messiah Ridgewood Searchlight Trinity Twelfth Avenue Zutphen	Tim Holwerda Matt Palsrok Stan Sturing Dave Jolman Jeff Scripps Marc Nelesen Jake Weeda Tom Swieringa Matthew Slack Nate Meldrim Nancy Boote Sam Krikke Gerry Koning Mark Bennink Josh VanDrunen	Dan Buning Bill Brouwer Bob Meyer Jay Koets Rod Huisingh Paul Hoekwater Ben Harkema Randy Koetje Peter Jansen Jim Pell Craig Flietstra David Holkeboer	Mike Webber Larry Osterbaan Jon Huisman Deb DeVries Bert Heyboer Joel Dekker Duane DeWeerd

Other persons attending Classis:

Staff:

Mr. Jim Roskam
Ms. Kathy Jelsema
Mr. Mel VanderBie
Ms. Glenda Tebben

Guests:

Mr. Ben Rosa (70x7 Ministries)
Fig VanderMolen (Messiah/Faith Formation)
Rev. Jerry VanGroningen
Jim and Helen Evenhouse (12th Avenue CRC)
Alive Ministries' Worship Team

II. Opening

Article 3

President Josh VanDrunen opened our meeting by sharing some verses from John 14, leading in prayer, and welcoming delegates and guests.

III. Business of Classis

Article 4

A. 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.
- b. Grants: Recommendations for grant funding are part of the 2018 Budget Presentation. Grant recipients will be encouraged to partner with and be connected to churches in this classis.
- c. REV Talks are being held at Georgetown CRC on Wednesday evenings.
- d. CRASE Training (church security) was held at Zutphen CRC in June.
- e. Questions:
 - What is the Vision Team? Five pastors and support staff who work on behalf of Classis.
 - Will additional CRASE Training be held? Not a classis planned event. If churches would like more information they can contact the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department or talk to Rev. Josh VanDrunen

2. Council of Delegates, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:

- a. The Council of Delegates (COD) is the governing entity/body that governs the CRCNA. Jim has replaced Rev. Dave DenHaan as the representative of Classis Georgetown. He attended his first meeting October 11-12 and is on the Support Services Committee.
- b. Jim highlights the CRCNA's "*Our Journey 2020*". "*Our*" journey because we're on it together. "*2020*" to remind us that this is just one stage of a journey that will see us living and growing together in new ways and new places by the year 2020. A few churches in our classes will be receiving a survey they are asked to complete.
- c. Inspire 2019 will be held August 1-3, 2019, in Windsor, Ontario.

3. Classis Georgetown Project: Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting

- a. The project is now at a stage where volunteers are needed. Sign-ups should be happening through churches with their captains. Volunteer work begins October 23.

- b. The stated clerk will be sending updates to churches to be shared with congregations.
- c. Jim encourages everyone to read "*The Theology of the Hammer*" by Habitat founder, Millard Fuller. Each church has received a copy of this book.
- d. Rev. Marc Nelesen shares his excitement about the Classis' involvement in this project. This is an awesome thing for our churches to be doing together!

3. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting

- a. Our treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reviewed the financial report. He noted that we are doing well against the current year budget.
- b. Our treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, presents the budget for 2019.
- c. **Motion to approve the 2019 budget. MSC.**
- d. President VanDrunen thanks Mr. Vander Bie for his work as our treasurer and Mrs. Kathy Jelsema for her work as assistant treasurer.
- e. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer and assistant treasurer.**

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

- a. Delegates for Synod 2019 will be chosen at or February meeting.
- b. Ministerial credentials of retired minister, Rev. Stan Drenth, have been transferred to Georgetown CRC.
- c. **A motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.**

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

- a. There are three students receiving aid: Noel Jacobs (Alive), Tricia Bosma (Hillcrest), and Chris Bouma (Zutphen).
- b. Chris will be a candidate in 2019 and Noel hopes to graduate in 2020.
- c. New students are encouraged to apply for aid.

6. Regional Pastors, Rev. Marc Nelesen reporting:

- a. Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman are our classis' regional pastors. They see their role as praying for and encouraging the pastors in Classis Georgetown and they encourage pastors to reach out to them.
- b. A book discussion group will be held November 14.
- c. In January, Susan LaClear and Marc Nelesen will offer meetings on the Enneagram.
- d. In 2019, the regional pastors will explore ways to encourage clergy marriages.
- e. Rev. Nelesen reminds delegates of the agreement with Pine Rest to provide counseling services to the staff and their families of churches in Classis Georgetown.

7. Credentials Committee, Ms. Glenda Tebben reporting

- a. All credentials are in order.
- b. EverGreen Ministries sent their apologies to Classis, saying they had no one to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

B. Synod 2017 report by Mrs. Kathy Jelsema

1. Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Jeff Scripps, Mr. Ray Dennis, and Mrs. Kathy Jelsema served Classis Georgetown as delegates this past summer.
2. Mrs. Jelsema shared a brief and positive report, prepared by Rev. Mark Bennink, on Synod 2018. Each delegate was asked to share three highlights.
3. President VanDrunen thanks the delegates for representing us.

C. Classis Action on closing of 12th Avenue CRC

1. Rev. Mark Bennink presents a PowerPoint presentation, "The Blessings of 12th Avenue CRC (1954-2018)" which highlighted the history of 12th Avenue CRC. They were a blessing to the Jenison community for 64 years! God called 12th Avenue CRC to be faithful to Him and they were.
2. On September 10, 2018, the congregation of 12th Avenue Christian Reformed Church voted by a significant majority to disband the ministry on December 31, 2018.
3. Two motions are presented to classis:
Motion: To approve the 12th Avenue CRC's decision to disband on December 31, 2018, according to the church's articles of incorporation and Church Order Article 32-d Supplement.
Motion: That Baldwin Street CRC will hold the memberships of all those who were members of 12th Avenue CRC who are undecided as to which church they would like their membership papers sent to.
Motions are MSC
4. President VanDrunen shares that 12th Avenue is in conversation with another church about their building and this information will be shared with classis when arrangements have been finalized.
5. If Rev. Bennink does not receive a call by December 31, 2018, Classis will meet for an Article 17 separation. This will be the way for Mark to continue as a minister of the Word in the CRCNA.
6. President VanDrunen prayed for Rev. Bennink and 12th Avenue CRC, giving thanks for her rich heritage as she lives out her role of being blessed to be a blessing

IV. Dinner for Delegates and Guests

A blessing is offered for our meal.

V. Our Shared Life Together – *Where do we see God transforming our Classis?*

Article 5

1. We worship together, led by Alive Ministries' worship team
2. Using the words of 1 Corinthians 12, Pastor Susan LaClear shares how we are seventeen churches knit together and linked together. We honor one another, we suffer together, and we rejoice together.
 - a. Delegates and guests take time to share together in response to the question:
What are some of the sorrows, challenges and struggles your congregation is facing?

- b. Delegates and guests take time to share together in response to the question:
Where is God at work in your congregation?
 - c. We share our struggles and joys as a communal body
Representatives at each table share joys and sorrows with the larger group of delegates and guests.
3. Celebration of Holy Communion led by Pastor Josh VanDrunen, Pastor Susan LaClear and elders from Alive Ministries.

VI: Closing

Article 6

1. The meeting was closed in prayer by President VanDrunen.
2. President VanDrunen offers a closing benediction.
3. Candidates are invited to complete the evaluation form at the back of their packets.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**Please note the date of our next Classis meetings
Thursday, February 28, 2019 – Time and meeting place TBD**