

Agenda for Meeting of Classis Georgetown

Thursday, December 6, 2018 - 12 noon

Main Street Pub (Coach's Corner room) 11240 University Pkwy, Allendale, MI 49401

Rev. Joshua VanDrunen, President

Rev. Gerry Koning, Vice President

1) Welcome and Prayer

- a) Welcome to delegates and guests
- b) Opening Prayer

2) Classis Work

Classis action on proposed Article 17 related to Rev. Mark Bennink and 12th Avenue CRC (see background notes below).

Motion: To approve Article 17 release of Rev. Mark Bennink from 12th Avenue CRC due to the closure of 12th Avenue's ministry.

Motion: To approve the transfer of Pastor Mark Bennink's and Pastor Jim Evenhouse's ministerial credentials to Baldwin Street CRC.

3) Lunch Fellowship

4) Closing Prayer

- a) Next meeting dates: February 28, 2019 (location: TBD)

Background

At the October 28, 2018 meeting of Classis Georgetown, classis delegates approved the decision of the council and congregation of 12th Avenue Christian Reformed Church to disband after December 31, 2018. An announcement was made that a severance package had been mutually agreed upon and approved between the council and Rev. Mark Bennink, the Senior Pastor of the church. If Pastor Mark did not receive a call from another church before the end of 2018, a meeting would be held to approve the release of Pastor Mark from his call to 12th Avenue Church by means of Article 17 of the Church Order.

According to the Church Order of the CRC, a pastor in good standing can be released from his or her call to a congregation by accepting a call to another congregation, through retirement, or through an Article 17 release. Since 12th Avenue CRC is closing at the end of 2018 and Pastor Mark is still looking for a church call, Classis Georgetown must approve his release from his call to 12th Avenue CRC and his severance agreement. They must also approve the transfer of Pastor Mark Bennink's and Pastor Jim Evenhouse's ministerial credentials to Baldwin Street CRC, the church that is receiving the memberships of 12th Avenue members that have not decided to join another church. Synodical deputies must also concur with the classis's decision on Pastor Mark's release, severance, and credential transfer. Pastor Mark and the Council agree fully with the terms. Pastor Jim will be serving as the Pastor of Visitation at Baldwin Street CRC starting in January of 2019. Pastor Mark, Pastor Jim, the Council of 12th Avenue CRC, and the congregation are grieving together over the closing of their beloved church, but also remain supportive of one another as they prepare to enter a new chapter of life and ministry for Christ's kingdom.