

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #104

Meeting at Post Family Farm (5081 Bauer Road, Hudsonville, MI 49426)
Tuesday, October 20, 2020; 6:00 PM to 8:45 PM

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.

ARTICLE I. ASSEMBLING OF CLASSIS

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Nate Meldrim

Vice-President: Rev. Matthew Slack

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

A. Delegates in attendance:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>ELDER(s)</u>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Rich Visser	Jackie Bouwman
Baldwin Street		Ken Dornbush Don Hamilton	Vaughn Talsma
Bauer	Dave TenClay	Ken VanderKolk	Joseph Scholten
Cottonwood		Keith Mulder Bernie VanDerKlok	Dan Winiarski
Evergreen	Jason Vermeulen		
Fairway	Stan Sturing	John Wilks	Derek Wykstra
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Ron Sterk	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Ron Koedam	Levi Walters
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Jo DeVries	Judy Roelofs-Kruisenga
Hillcrest		Dave Meyer	Alden Jelsema
Immanuel	Jake Porter	Jim Krikke	Phyllis Wigger
Jamestown	Matthew Slack	Dave Brinks	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Don Veltman	
Ridgewood		Doug Verwolf	Ellen DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Ryan Scholma	
Trinity	Gerry Koning	Craig Flietstra	Gayle Byker
Zutphen		Dale Heyboer	Dave VanHaitsma

First-time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers

B. Other persons attending Classis:Vision Team staff:

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Assistant Treasurer
 Mr. Jim Roskam, Classis Coordinator
 Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk
 Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Al Gelder, Grand Rapids East
 Rev. Jerry Blom, Grand Rapids North
 Rev. George Vink, Grand Rapids South

Guests:

Rev. Jack Dik, retired pastor of Georgetown CRC
 Mr. Brian Boucek, Bauer CRC
 Rev. Josh Benton, Evergreen Ministries
 Rev. James Evenhouse, Baldwin Street CRC
 Rev. Pablo Lee, All Nations Church Plant
 Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion
 Rev. Gale Tien, Messiah CRC
 Additional guests from Bauer CRC (present for Mr. Boucek's examination)

ARTICLE II. OPENING

- A. A time of opening prayer is led by classis president, Rev. Meldrim.
- B. A welcome is extended to delegates, guests, and synodical deputies.

ARTICLE III. CLASSIS FAREWELL TO REV. JACK DIK

- A. Rev. Marc Nelesen shared heartfelt words of appreciation and farewell to Rev. Jack Dik on his retirement. Jack is thanked for his many years of service to the CRCNA, to Georgetown CRC, and to Classis Georgetown. Jack thanked the Classis for the privilege of working and ministering with us. He prays for stamina and perseverance for all pastors and church leaders during difficult times. Rev. Meldrim prayed a blessing over Jack.

ARTICLE IV. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS**A. Ministry Reports**

- 1. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
 - a. Written report is reviewed.
 - i. Rev. Marc Nelesen is serving as the counselor of Hillcrest CRC as they are in the process of calling an ordained CRC pastor to serve as our Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Leadership.
 - ii. A copy of a letter was received from Cottonwood CRC that they had sent to Neland Ave CRC from Classis GR East expressing their concern with Neland's decision to install a deacon who is a same-sex marriage.

- iii. Fairway CRC requests Classis to approve the use of church order Article 24(b) to call Jeremy Rhodes to become a Commissioned Pastor of Fairway Christian Reformed Church for a term of three years.
 - b. **Motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Stated Clerk. Motion is carried.**
2. Vision Team, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:
- a. Written report is reviewed. Jim highlights our continued connection with Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity.
 - b. **Motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Vision Team. Motion is carried.**
3. Council of Delegates, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:
- a. Synod did not meet in 2020; the COD met by in their stead
 - b. Jim shared meeting highlights of the COD (October 14-16, 2020):
 - i. COD received letters regarding the situation at Neland CRC and responded by replying to churches that sent letters, sending an open letter to all churches in the denomination, and sending a letter to Neland Ave. CRC.
 - ii. Financially things better than anticipated. Early reports on reimagined ministry shares look good.
 - iii. Inspire 2021 will be held in August in Chicago
4. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting
- a. Our treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reviewed the financial report. He noted that giving is good and the faithfulness of our churches should be commended.
 - b. Mr. Mel Vander Bie presents and reviews the budget for 2021.
 - c. **Motion is made and supported to approve the 2021 budget. Motion is carried.**
 - d. The treasurer distributed a worksheet to the churches which must be completed and returned by the end of November. Each church must give a pledge amount for denomination ministry shares as well as a member count for classical ministry shares.
 - e. **Motion was made and supported approve the work of the treasurer. Motion is carried.**
5. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Jeffery Scripps, reporting
- a. Rev. Scripps thanks the Vision Team for approving the 2020/2021 financial aid requests for students.
 - b. A "Meet & Greet" with students is planned for October 27.
 - c. Rev. Scripps thanks the Classis for the support of future church leaders.
6. Regional Pastors, Rev. Marc Nelesen reporting:
- a. Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman are our classis' regional pastors.
 - b. In this time of the Covid-19 pandemic it is good for pastors and churches to be aware of stressors that cause angst in congregations. Frustration levels are high, and pastors and church leaders are encouraged to be gentle with themselves.

7. Credentials Committee, Ms. Glenda Tebben reporting
 - a. Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order.

B. Classis Voting: Election of Single nominee to the Council of Delegates

1. Jeanne Kallemeyn is selected as our representative to the COD

C. Request from Fairway CRC:

1. **Motion is made and supported to approve Fairway CRC's request that Classis Georgetown approve the use of church order Article 24(b) to call Jeremy Rhodes to become a Commissioned Pastor of Fairway Christian Reformed Church for a term of three years. Motion is carried.**
Synodical Deputies concurred.
2. **Motion is made and supported to grant permission for Jeremy Rhodes to serve as stated supply until he can be examined by Classis Georgetown to become a commissioned pastor. Motion is carried.**
3. Pastor Stan Sturing offers a prayer for Fairway CRC and the ministry of Jeremy Rhodes.

D. Extension of Eligibility for Call

Discussed and acted upon in Strict Executive Session

1. At Classis Georgetown's December 6, 2018 meeting, Rev. Mark Bennink was released as a minister in the CRC due to the unsustainability and closure of 12th Avenue CRC where he had been serving.
 - i. President Meldrim reads a letter from Rev. Bennink in which he requests Classis Georgetown to extend his eligibility for call for one year. Weighty reasons include his serving presently as an interim at 1st Zeeland CRC; he is actively pursuing another call.
 - ii. **Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown extend Rev. Mark Bennink's eligibility for call for one year.**
The Vision Team recommends supporting this request. **Motion is carried.**
 - iii. Synodical Deputies concurred.
2. At Classis Georgetown's May 18, 2017 meeting, Rev. Josh Benton was released as a minister in the CRC due to the unsustainability and closure of Friendship Chapel's ministry where he had been serving. At Classis Georgetown's meeting on May 23, 2019, Classis Georgetown extended Rev. Benton's eligibility for call for one year.
 - i. President Meldrim reads a letter from Rev. Benton in which he requests Classis Georgetown to extend his eligibility for call one more year. He notes the "weighty reasons" for doing so include various contacts being made.
 - ii. **Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown extend Rev. Josh Benton's eligibility for call for one year.**
The Vision Team presents a five-point verbal presentation providing its reasons for the Classis to deny Rev. Benton's request.
There is extended discussion. The motion to extend is defeated by ballot.

- iii. **Motion is made and supported to declare Rev. Josh Benton released from ministerial office in accord with Church Order Article 17-d.**
- iv. **Motion is made and supported to table the prior motion until the February Classis meeting. Motion carried.**

Note: Acting on Article 17-d will be processed through the Vision Team, providing Rev. Benton opportunity to respond. The Vision Team will report back to Classis at the February meeting at which the tabled motion will be considered.

The Executive Session was concluded with prayer by President Nate Meldrim.

ARTICLE V. BREAK AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

ARTICLE VI. CLASSICAL EXAM OF MR. BRIAN BOUCEK

- A. Rev. Dave TenClay, pastor of Bauer CRC, introduces Mr. Boucek who has served on the staff of Bauer CRC for eight years. Rev. TenClay offers a prayer for Brian as the meeting proceeds.
- B. Rev. Sam Krikke and Rev. Jake Porter attended the service evening service at Bauer CRC on Sunday, September 20. Rev. Porter reviews the message and the worship service and reports favorably, congratulating Brian on having done excellent work. Both Rev. Porter and Rev. Krikke highly recommend him for this position.
- C. Rev. Marc Nelesen interviews Brian on his theological knowledge and application, asking about education, training, and experience he has had. A review of scripture and the Reformed Confessions is included.
- D. The floor of Classis is open for any of the delegates in attendance to question Brian.
- E. **A motion is made and supported to confirm Mr. Brian Boucek as a Commissioned Pastor for Bauer CRC in Hudsonville. Motion is carried.**
- F. **A motion is made and supported to share Mr. Brian Boucek's commissioned status within the classis allowing him to serve as pulpit supply in the churches of Classis Georgetown. Motion is carried.**
- G. We congratulate Brian. Rev. Ten Clay offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the present and future work and ministry of Brian at Bauer CRC. The ordination service is planned for Sunday, November 1.

ARTICLE VII: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED; VP Matthew Slack led in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note:

The date of our WINTER CLASSIS MEETING is Thursday, February 11, 2021; hosted by Immanuel CRC in Hudsonville.