

# Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #105

Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, December 10, 2020; 7:00 PM – 8:10 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

Zoom Host: Rev. Susan LaClear

**A. Credentials:** All churches sent in their credentials prior to the meeting.

#### B. Delegates in attendance:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR(S)</u>	<u>ELDER(S)</u>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten Susan LaClear		
Baldwin Street		Ken Dornburh Don Hamilton	
Bauer	Dave TenClay		
Cottonwood		Keith Mulder	Dan Winiarski
Evergreen Ministries	Harold Veltman	Scott Pell Jake Vollink	
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	John Wilks	Derek Wykstra
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Ron Sterk	
Forest Grove	Jeff Scripps	Ron Koedam	
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Judy Roelofs-Kruisinga	
Hillcrest	Curt Walters	Dave Meyer	
Immanuel	Jake Porter	Jim Krikke	
Jamestown	Matthew Slack	Dave Brinks	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Don Veltman	
Ridgewood	Len Kuyvenhoven		Ellen DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Ryan Scholma	
Trinity	Gerry Koning	Craig Flietstra	
Zutphen		Brad Westhouse	

Other persons attending Classis:

Staff:

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

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Doug Fauble  
Rev. Al Gelder  
Rev. George Vink

Guest:

Rev. Tom Kragt

## **ARTICLE II. OPENING**

- A. President Nate Meldrim opened this segment of our meeting by welcoming all in attendance including Rev. Tom Kragt and the synodical deputies Rev. Doug Fauble, Rev. Al Gelder, and Rev. George Vink. A special welcome is given to Rev. Harold Veltman, the new STM at Evergreen Ministries, and Mr. Jeremy Rhodes, who has begun his work at Fairway CRC.
- B. President Meldrim led in an opening prayer.
- C. President Meldrim shared announcements regarding the Zoom meeting. A sample voting poll was conducted by all delegates.

## **ARTICLE III. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS**

### **A. Classis Action on proposed Article 17 related to Rev. Tom Kragt and Evergreen Ministries.**

Discussed and acted upon in Executive Session

#### **1. Background and History**

Rev. Marc Nelesen reviewed the document explaining the background for the Article 17 separation. Rev. Tom Kragt and Evergreen's leadership agree that the document reflects the truth they hold. What Pastor Tom Kragt asked for in the termination agreement, Evergreen Ministries provided. No further steps or an oversight committee are needed.

#### **2. Discussion and Recommendations**

- a. **Motion was made and supported to approve Article 17 release of a mutually agreed separation between Rev. Tom Kragt and Evergreen Ministries.**  
This is followed by discussion of the motion.
- b. Motion is carried.
- c. While the synodical deputies meet, Rev. Matthew Slack led in a prayer for the church universal, our classis, and our individual churches.
- d. The synodical deputies concurred with classis' decision.
- e. Rev. Marc Nelesen led in prayer for Evergreen Ministries and Rev. Tom Kragt.

- f. Rev. Kragt's Ministerial credentials are currently held by Great Lakes City Classis of the Reformed Church in America. They will remain there until he requests them to be transferred.

**B. Classis Action on the request of Rev. Josh Benton that Classis proceed with an Article 14-c, releasing him from the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament in order to pursue a non-ministerial vocation.**

Discussed and acted upon in Executive Session

**1. Background and History**

Rev. Nate Meldrim shared parts of a letter Rev. Benton had written to the Classis Vision Team.

**2. Discussion and Recommendations**

- a. **Motion was made and supported that Classis acquiesce in the request of Rev. Josh Benton to resign from the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church to enter a non-ministerial vocation and that his status be that on one who is released.**

This is followed by discussion of the motion.

- b. Motion is carried.
- c. While the synodical deputies meet, a prayer for pastors and leaders in our congregations is led by Jim Roskam. Rev. Curt Walters shared the news that Rev. Cody Nederveld joined the ministry team at Hillcrest CRC.
- d. The synodical deputies concurred with classis' decision.
- e. Rev. Jeff Scripps leads in a prayer for Rev. Josh Benton and the Benton family.

**ARTICLE IV: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED;** Rev. Nate Meldrim led in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenda Tebben*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**Please note the date of our next Classis meeting:**

- **Thursday, February 11, 2020 at Immanuel CRC.**