

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #107

Meeting at Post Family Farm (5081 Bauer Road, Hudsonville, MI 49426)
Thursday, May 20, 2021; 4:00 PM to 7:30 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(s)</u>	<u>ELDER(s)</u>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries Baldwin Street	Terry Scholten	Anita Huizenga David DenOuden Ken Dornbush	Jackie Bouwman
Bauer		Tom Boven Bill Lutke	Scott Harkes
Cottonwood		Jordan Ballor Bernie VanDerKlok	Dan Winiarski
Evergreen	Jason Vermeulen	Stacey Post Rich Verkaik	
Fairway		John Wilks	Judy Dykema
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Cal Palmbos	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Ron Koedam	
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Jeanne Kallemeyn	Lynn Kapteyn
Hillcrest	Curt Walters	Rick VanDyke	
Immanuel		Jim Krikke	Mary VanZanten
Jamestown	Matthew Slack	Bob Meengs	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim Gale Tien	Joel Mulder	
Ridgewood	Cindy Holtrop	John TenElshof	Ellen DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Brent Johnson	
Trinity	Gerry Koning	Robert Posthumus	Daniel Scholma
Zutphen		Jim Nykamp	Jeff VanRhee

First-time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers

B. Other persons attending Classis:

Vision Team staff:

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

Guests:

Rev. Larry Baar, retired CRC pastor
 Rev. Jerry VanGroningen, retired CRC pastor
 Mrs. Juliana Clink, Safe Church Team
 Mrs. Lynrae Frens, World Renew
 Mrs. Laura Koning, Regional Disability Advocate
 Rev. Amy Schenkel, Resonate Regional Leader
 Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Ministry Champion
 Rev. Jeremy Rhodes, Fairway CRC
 Mrs. Elizabeth Rhodes, Fairway CRC
 Rev. Ed Tamminga, Fairway CRC

Additional guests from Fairway CRC (present for Rev. Rhode's examination)

Mr. Rick Bouwkamp
 Rev. John DeVries
 Mr. Mark Gort
 Mrs. Dianne Reed
 Mr. Ken Schaaf
 Mr. Cal Vis
 Mr. Al Wiersma

ARTICLE II. OPENING

- A. Classis president, Rev. Nate Meldrim, declared classis constituted and welcomed delegates and guests.
- B. A time of devotions is led by classis president, Rev. Meldrim who reads 2 Peter 3:17-18 and opens the meeting with prayer.

ARTICLE III. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS

A. Ministry Reports

1. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
 - a. Written report is reviewed.
 - b. Update on ministerial credentials:
 - The credentials of Rev. Cory Nederveld have been received from First CRC in Grand Haven (Classis Muskegon). Cody serves at Hillcrest CRC.
 - Rev. Susan LaClear began her work as the Director of Candidacy for the CRCNA on April 5. Her credentials remain at Alive Ministries in Jenison.
 - Rev. Shelby Gemmen, who is serving at Grant Reformed church, was called to Trinity CRC in Sparta (Classis Minnkota). His credentials were sent there (had been at Immanuel CRC)

- The credentials of Rev. Scott Koeman were sent to Zutphen CRC (from Evergreen Ministries). Scott is a military chaplain.
- c. **Motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Stated Clerk. Motion is carried.**
2. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting
 - a. Mr. VanderBie updated classis on the receipts. He is amazed by the faithful stewardship of our churches throughout 2020.
 - b. Mr. VanderBie reminds classis that on July 1 the denomination will switch to the Ministry Shares pledge system. This may prove to be a difficult change and we are asked to remember to pray for our denomination throughout the coming year.
 - c. **Motion was made and supported approve the work of the treasurer. Motion is carried.**
 3. Vision Team, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:
 - a. Written report is reviewed. Jim noted that the Habitat House that was a classis project (corner of 48th and Baldwin in Hudsonville) has sold. Monies will be given towards the new Habitat project beginning in Hudsonville.
 - b. **Motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Vision Team. Motion is carried.**
 4. Council of Delegates (COD); Mr. Jim Roskam reporting. The COD met via Zoom from May 5-7. Jim shared a few highlights:
 - a. Much time was spent discussing restructuring CRC leadership. The COD made several recommendations to Synod 2022 related to organizational structure and leadership as proposed by the Structure and Leadership Task Force (SALT).
 - b. Bethany Christian Services has been removed from the list of approved offerings on the basis of their willingness to assist samesex couples with adoptions.
 - c. Pastor Church Resources has an excellent toolkit available to churches who would like to discuss the Human Sexuality Report
 - d. Jim's term as our COD representative concludes at the end of June 2021. The Chair thanks Jim for his work on our behalf. Jeanne Kallemeyn will begin her term on July 1, 2021.
 5. Vision Team Special Report: Article 17 guidelines
 - a. On behalf of the Vision Team, Rev. Marc Nelesen shares guidelines to assist pastors, churches, and Classis Georgetown with severance agreements when an Article 17 is requested.
 - b. The guidelines are provided for information and are received as such.
 6. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Jeffery Scripps, reporting
 - a. Students asking for aid:
 - Justin Burns – Total aid of \$2,516.35

Robert Janke – Total aid of \$7,198.00

Tyrel Natawa (Classis Red Mesa) – Total aid of \$500.00

Total request for 2021/2022 school year: \$10,214.35

- b. **Motion is made and supported to approve the request of \$10,214.35 for student aid support for the 2021/2022 school year. The motion is carried.**
 - c. A note about student aid: When students receive funding, they are made aware that the assistance is in the form of a loan and if they do not serve in the CRCNA, they will be asked to repay the loan. Some are good about paying back, others are not. The committee seeks to honor what monies are given for and will devise a better way of tracking students in the future.
7. Regional Pastors, Rev. David Jolman reporting:
 - a. Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman are our classis' regional pastors. They are pastors to pastors, and are also available to church councils.
 - b. Rev. Jolman noted that everyone is tired and weary of the covid pandemic and pastors are at the top of list. He encourages councils and church leaders to support pastors who have been working hard this past year during unprecedented times.
 - c. Rev. Jolman highlights the ministry to clergy spouses, led by Connie DeHaan. Connie is a great encourager who offers support to spouses of pastors.
 - d. Regional pastors are thanked for their work and ministry.
 8. Credentials Committee, Ms. Glenda Tebben reporting
 - a. Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order.

B. Classis Voting

1. Region 10 Single nominee for the Board of Calvin Theological Seminary: Rev. Art VanWolde received unanimous approval with 42 votes.

C. Request from Fairway CRC:

1. The Council of Fairway CRC, with the endorsement of the CRC Candidacy Committee, seeks approval that Mr. Jeremy Rhodes be allowed to enter the CRC ministry through Church Order Article 8 rather than through the Article 6 candidacy process. The learning plan known as the MEPMC, involving accredited work at Calvin Theological Seminary, would still be required.
2. **Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown approve an adjustment to the ordination affiliation process of Jeremy Rhodes, making use of Church Order Article 8 rather than the candidacy route of Church Order Article 6. Motion is carried.**

ARTICLE IV CLASSICAL EXAM OF JEREMY RHODES

- A. Mr. John Wilks, elder at Fairway CRC, introduces Rev. Rhodes. Born and raised in California, Jeremy and his family arrived in Jenison last December. Fairway CRC is excited about the passion that Jeremy has to reach-out as a Christ-like servant; he

brings renewed energy to Fairway. John leads a prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the exam.

- B. Rev. Gerry Koning and Rev. John DeVries attended the worship service at Fairway CRC on Sunday, April 16 (Rev DeVries in in-person, Rev. Koning via livestream), noting that it has been difficult for Jeremy to begin his ministry at Fairway during the Covid pandemic. Rev. Koning reviews the message and the worship service and reports favorably, congratulating Jeremy on having done excellent work.
- C. The examination was led by Rev. Ed Tamminga who has been meeting with Jeremy weekly in a mentoring relationship. Rev. Tamminga interviews Jeremy 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. Jeremy agrees to fulfill his commitment to the Article 8 program and become a pastor in the CRC. *At the completion of this program, with authorization from the Candidacy Committee, we shall conduct a colloquium doctum inquiring into Jeremy's soundness of doctrine, sanctity of life, and knowledge and appreciation of Christian Reformed practice and usage* (Church Order Article 8.E.4).
- D. The floor of Classis is open for any of the delegates to question Jeremy.
- E. Classis enters into Executive Session. **A motion is made and supported to confirm Jeremy Rhodes as a Commissioned Pastor for Fairway CRC in Jenison. Motion is carried.**
- F. Classis returns to open session. The chair announces the decision, speaking words of congratulations, appreciation, and encouragement for Jeremy's ministry and growth. Rev. Gerry Koning offers a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for Jeremy and his ongoing ministry at Fairway CRC.

ARTICLE V: DINNER AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Sam Krikke, pastor of Searchlight Ministries, has been involved in CRC ministry for 11 years and he thanks Classis Georgetown for their financial support provided to him during the time he was preparing for ministry.

ARTICLE VI: A PANEL OF MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES

- A. We welcome ministry representatives Juliana Clink (Safe Church Team), Lynrae Frens (World Renew), Laura Koning (Regional Disability Advocate), Amy Schenkel (Resonate Regional Leader), and Fig VanderMolen (Youth Ministry Champion). Each share with us what their role in classis is and how we can be involved in their ministries. Their presence was a reminder that we serve a mighty God in a great denomination filled with many resources and resourceful people.
- B. Vice President, Rev. Slack, thanks the members of the panel for their work and ministry.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown