

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #108

Meeting at Messiah Christian Reformed Church (2900 Springdale Street, Hudsonville, MI 49426)
Thursday, October 28, 2021; 4:00 PM to 8:15 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. Matthew Slack

Vice-President: Rev. Nate Meldrim

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

A. Delegates in attendance:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>ELDER(s)</u>	<u>DEACON</u>
Alive Ministries Baldwin Street	Terry Scholten	Jan Palma Ken Dornbush Ken VanNoord	
Bauer Cottonwood	Dave TenClay	Gary Tamminga Jordan Ballor Bernie VanderKlok	Matt Syswerda Dan Winiarski
Evergreen Ministries	Jason Vermeulen	Scott Pell Rich VerKaik	
Fairway First Hudsonville	Jeremy Rhodes Dave Jolman	Geoff Lenters Tom Victory	Linda Miedema
Forest Grove Georgetown	Jeff Scripps	Ron Koedam Jeanne Kallemeyn Jan Dykstra	Ryan Kooiman
Hillcrest Immanuel	Curt Walters	Doug Holtrop Rob De Boer	Linda Witte Amy Ymker
Jamestown Messiah	Matthew Slack Gale Tien	Ron VanderMeulen Don Veltman	Chris Slager
Ridgewood Searchlight	Cindy Holtrop Sam Krikke	John TenElshof Ryan Scholma	Ellen DeJong Don Wiersma
Trinity/The Refuge Zutphen	Gerry Koning	Craig Flietstra Dale Heyboer	Ross Jelsema Wayne VanderLugt

B. Other persons attending Classis:Vision Team staff:

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

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Henry Admiraal, Classis Grand Rapids North
 Rev. Al Gelder, Classis Grand Rapids East
 Rev. Bryce Mensink, Classis Grandville

Guests:

Rev. Jerry VanGroningen, retired CRC pastor
 Rev. Larry Baar, retired CRC pastor
 Mrs. Juliana Clink, Safe Church Team
 Mrs. Laura Koning, Regional Disability Advocate
 Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Ministry Champion
 Candidate Bryzon Masiboh, Strong Tower Ministries
 Rev. Nate Meldrim, Messiah CRC
 John Mondy, Resonate Global Mission
 Carla Bieber, Resonate Global Mission
 Chelsea Schiavi (Administrative and Volunteer Assistant for Disability Concerns, Office of Race Relations, Office of Social Justice, and Safe Church Ministry),

Church Advocates for Disability Concerns:

Lori DeYoung, Immanuel CRC
 Vicki Palmbo, First Hudsonville CRC
 Tammy Schnyder, First Hudsonville CRC

Additional guests were in attendance from The Refuge/Trinity CRC and Strong Tower Ministries (present for Candidate Bryzon Masiboh's examination) and from Messiah CRC (present for Rev. Nate Meldrim's examination).

ARTICLE II. OPENING

- A. Classis president Rev. Matthew Slack calls the meeting to order and thanked Messiah CRC for their hospitality in hosting. He gave a brief overview of the evening's agenda.
- B. A time of devotions is led by President Slack who reads Psalm 100 and opens the meeting with prayer.
- C. President Slack welcomed delegates, synodical deputies and guests.
- D. Roll Call of delegates is taken.

ARTICLE III. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS

A. Ministry Reports

1. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
 - a. Written report is reviewed.
 - b. Delegates for Synod 2022 will be chosen at our February meeting.
 - c. Rev. Mark Bennink is serving as a chaplain of Hospice of Michigan and is seeking CRC endorsement as a chaplain. He requests that his ministerial credentials be renewed for another year. **Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown extend Rev. Mark Bennink's eligibility for call for one year. Motion is carried. Synodical Deputies concurred.**
 - d. **Motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Stated Clerk. Motion is carried.**
2. Vision Team, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:
 - a. Mr. Roskam reviews the written report.
 - b. Mr. Joshua Benton requests permission to preach at Classis Georgetown churches and the Vision Team recommends him for consideration.
 - c. **Motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Vision Team. Motion is carried.**
3. Council of Delegates (COD); Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn reporting. The COD met via zoom conference call on October 13-15, 2021.
 - a. The Council of Delegates (COD) is the governing entity/body that governs the CRCNA. Jeanne has replaced Mr. Jim Roskam as the representative of Classis Georgetown.
 - b. Each delegate received a copy of the COD Highlights from the October meeting.
 - c. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.
4. 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. Mr. Mel Vander Bie, presents the budget for 2022.
 - c. **Motion is made and supported to approve the 2022 budget. Motion is carried.**
 - d. Mr. VanderBie reports that an annual review was done, and he thanks Mrs. Kathy Jelsema for her work in preparing for this review.
 - e. The treasurer distributed a worksheet to the churches. Each church must give a pledge amount for denominational ministry shares as well as a member count for classical ministry shares.
 - f. **Motion is made and supported to approve work of the Treasurer. Motion is carried.**

5. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Jeffery Scripps, reporting
 - a. There are three students receiving aid,
 - b. New students are encouraged to apply for aid.
 - c. Rev. Scripps thanks the Classis for the support of future church leaders.

6. 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 reminds delegates of the agreement with Pine Rest to provide counseling services to the staff and their families of churches in Classis Georgetown.
 - 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.

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

ARTICLE IV CLASSICAL EXAM OF BRYZON MASIBOH

A. Introduction of Candidate Bryzon Masiboh

Rev. Gerry Koning introduces Bryzon, giving thanks that God has brought Bryzon to Strong Tower Ministries. Rev. John Mondri, from Resonate Global Mission, has known Bryzon for 11 years. He is thankful for all who support Strong Towers and the message that Bryzon gives, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Rev. Mondri leads a prayer for Bryzon, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the exam.

B. Proper procedure:

1. Rev. Sam Krikke conducted the practical exam. **This was followed by a motion to proceed which was MSC.**
2. Rev. Gerry Koning reported favorably on the sermon that was preached on September 12, 2021 at Trinity CRC. **Motion was MSC to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.**
3. Rev. Gale Tien presided over the theological exam. **Motion was made and seconded to accept Candidate Masiboh into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.**
4. Executive session is declared (visitors are excused).
5. Discussion on the motion.
6. The Synodical Deputies are excused to conduct their deliberations.
7. Motion is to be voted on by paper ballot. Ballots are counted. **Motion is carried to accept Candidate Masiboh into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. The Synodical Deputies give their concurrence to classis' decision.**

C. Executive session ends:

All who left the room are called back. Candidate Masiboh is invited forward to receive the good news. President Slack offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the present and future work and ministry of Bryzon at Strong Tower Ministries. The ordination service is planned for Sunday, October 31, 2021, at Trinity CRC in Grandville, MI.

ARTICLE V: REPORT FROM TRINITY CRC/THE REFUGE

Rev. Gerry Koning shares with Classis that Trinity CRC has been renamed as The Refuge. As a missional church, they hope to provide a place of refuge for all who come, with Christ at the center.

ARTICLE VI: DINNER AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Koning offers a prayer of blessing for dinner. After a time of visiting, President Slack welcomes Mr. Art Opperwal executive director of Georgetown Harmony Homes. Mr. Opperwal shares an update on the ministry of Harmony Homes, one of our grant recipients.

ARTICLE VII CLASSICAL EXAM OF BRYZON MASIBOH

A. Introduction of Rev. Nate Meldrim

Elder Don Veltman from Messiah CRC introduces Rev. Nate Meldrim. Nate came to Messiah as a pastor from the RCA and they are so thankful that God has called Nate to continue leading and ministering as a CRC pastor. Elder Veltman led a prayer for guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the exam.

B. Proper procedure:

1. Rev. Dave Jolman conducted the practical exam. **This was followed by a motion to proceed which was MSC.**
2. Rev. Jerry Van Groningen reported favorably on the sermon that was preached on October 3, 2021, at Messiah CRC. **Motion was MSC to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.**
3. Rev. Curt Walters presided over the Biblical/Theological exam. **Motion was made and seconded to accept Rev. Meldrim into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.**
4. Executive session is declared (visitors are excused).
5. Discussion on the motion.
6. The Synodical Deputies are excused to conduct their deliberations.
7. Motion is to be voted on by paper ballot. Ballots are counted. **Motion is carried to accept Rev. Meldrim into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. The Synodical Deputies give their concurrence to classis' decision.**

C. Executive session ends:

All who left the room are called back. Rev. Meldrim is invited forward to receive the good news, and the delegates gathered around for a prayer of thanksgiving led by President Slack. The ordination service will be held on October 31, 2021, at Messiah CRC in Hudsonville, MI.

ARTICLE VIII: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED; President Matthew Slack led in a closing prayer and gives the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note upcoming meeting dates:

- Our Winter meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 24, 2022**. Time and location TBD. Agenda items and overtures for Synod are due (to the Stated Clerk) by Monday, January 31, 2022.
- Our Spring meeting date is **Thursday, May 19, 2022**.
- Synod 2022 will meet **June 10-16, 2022**, on the campus of Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI.