

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #109

Meeting at Bauer Christian Reformed Church (4958 Bauer Road, Hudsonville, MI 49426)
Thursday, February 24; 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. Nate Meldrim

Vice-President: Rev. Matthew Slack

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

A. Delegates in attendance:

CHURCH

Alive Ministries

Baldwin Street

Bauer

Cottonwood

Evergreen Ministries

Fairway

First Hudsonville

Forest Grove

Georgetown

Hillcrest

Immanuel

Jamestown

Messiah

Ridgewood

Searchlight

Trinity/The Refuge

Zutphen

PASTOR

Terry Scholten

David TenClay

Matt Palsrok

Jason Vermeulen

Jeremy Rhodes

David Jolman

Jeffery Scripps

Marc Nelesen

Cory Nederveld

Jake Porter

Matthew Slack

Gale Tien

Cindy Holtrop

Sam Krikke

ELDER(s)

Conrad Hernandez

Ken Dornbush
Richard Meyer

Mike Mesman

Bill Corner

Daena Vuyst

Geoff Lenters

Doug Krikke

Rick VanDis

Preston Kallemeyn

Doug Holtrop

Mark Bonner

Dave Brinks

Don Veltman

John TenElshof

Ryan Scholma

Craig Flietstra

Jeff Ensing

DEACON

Bruce Tebben

Nick Huizinga

Dan Winiarski

Rob Schra

Chris Plantinga

Derek VanDam

Rashelle Tamminga

Linda Witte

Mary VanZanten

Eric Bolt

Ellen DeJong

Don Wiersma

Gayle Byker

Justin Dyk

B. Other persons attending Classis:

Vision Team:

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Asst. Treasurer, Web Keeper
 Rev. Nate Meldrim, Messiah CRC
 Mr. Jim Roskam, Classis Coordinator
 Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Henry Admiraal, Classis Grand Rapids North
 Rev. Al Gelder, Classis Grand Rapids East
 Rev. George Vink, Classis Grand Rapids South

Council of Delegates:

Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, Classis Georgetown representative

Guests:

Candidate Rob Gruessing, Bauer CRC
 Rev. Curt Walters, Hillcrest CRC
 Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Ministry Champion
 Mrs. Juliana Clink, Safe Church Team
 Ms. Carla Bieber, Resonate Global Mission
 Mr. Justin Burns, Adult Ministries and Outreach Director at Alive Ministries
 Rev. Jim Evenhouse, retired pastor
 Ms. Cheryl Wyma, Executive Assistant at 70x7 Life Recovery
 Ms. Paula Creswell, Manager, Cards for Prisoners at 70x7 Life Recovery

Additional guests were in attendance from Bauer CRC (present for Candidate Rob Gruessing's examination).

ARTICLE II. OPENING

- A. Classis president Rev. Nate Meldrim calls the meeting to order and thanked Bauer CRC for their hospitality in hosting. He gave a brief overview of the evening's agenda.
- B. President Meldrim welcomed delegates, synodical deputies and guests.
- C. Roll Call of delegates is taken. First time delegates are asked to sign the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC.
- D. A time of devotions is led by President Meldrim who reads 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 and opens the meeting with prayer.

ARTICLE III. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS

A. Ministry Reports

1. Vision Team, Mr. Jim Roskam, reporting:
 - a. Mr. Roskam reviews the written report.
 - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the work of the Vision Team.
2. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
 - a. Written report is reviewed.
 - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.

3. Council of Delegates (COD); Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn reporting.
 - a. The Council of Delegates (COD) is the governing entity/body that governs the CRCNA.
 - b. The COD met via a zoom conference call from February 16-18, 2022. Each delegate received a copy of the COD Highlights from the February meeting
 - c. There are abundant ministries in the CRC that continue to reach out and provide ministry in our denomination.
 - d. The COD plans to meet in in person in May.
 - e. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.

4. Treasurer's Report, Mrs. Kathy Jelsema reporting
 - a. Our assistant treasurer, Mrs. Kathy Jelsema, shared a positive and encouraging report regarding the classis' financial health.
 - b. Financial information packets for churches were distributed to deacons present at the meeting.
 - c. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve work of the Treasurer.

5. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Jeffery Scripps, reporting
 - a. There are two students receiving aid, Rob Janke and Justin Burns.
 - b. Announcements have been sent to Classis churches inviting students who are looking to attend seminary 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. Regional Pastors reach out proactively. There is a Wednesday morning prayer time at 9 AM at The Refuge.
 - c. Rev. Jolman highlights the agreement our Classis has with Pine Rest to provide counseling services to the staff and their families of churches in Classis Georgetown. Several ministry persons and/or family members are using their services.
 - d. Rev. Jolman reminds all in attendance that we are leading and serving in interesting times.
 - e. 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.
 - b. Forest Grove CRC is having a difficult time finding accompanists for worship services and requested assistance from Classis in producing a list of people whom they might ask to provide music. The Stated Clerk will work with the pastor of Forest Grove in putting together such a list.

- B. Motion from the floor.

Motion is made and seconded to amend the meeting agenda, switching 2b and 2c on the agenda. Vote is taken by a show of hands. **Motion is defeated.**

- C. Delegates/Alternates to Synod 2022 (June 10-16 at Calvin University)
 1. A motion from the Vision Team is presented.

Motion is made and seconded that at their meeting on February 24, Classis Georgetown will cast lots to determine who will represent our Classis at Synod 2022.

Discussion on the motion.

Vote on motion by ballot. Ballots are counted. **Motion is defeated.**

2. Classis Voting on those who will represent Classis Georgetown at the June meeting of the Synod of the CRCNA

The following ministers were elected:

First Pastor Delegate, Rev. Curt Walters

Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Cory Nederveld

First Pastor Alternate, Rev. Matt Palsrok

Second Pastor Alternate, Rev. Jeffery Scripps

The following elders were elected:

Elder Delegate, Mr. Doug Holtrop

First Elder Alternate, Mr. Mel Vander Bie

The following deacons were elected:

Deacon Delegate, Mrs. Linda Witte

First Deacon Alternate, Mrs. Kathy Jelsema

- D. Rev. Cory Nederveld presents a proposed communication to Synod from the councils of Hillcrest CRC, Zutphen CRC, Forest Grove CRC, Messiah CRC, Cottonwood Church, and Bauer CRC.

Motion is made and seconded to accept this communication as a Classis and forward it to Synod 2022 on behalf of Classis Georgetown.

Discussion on the motion.

Vote on motion by ballot. Ballots are counted. **Motion is carried.**

ARTICLE IV: DINNER AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Matthew Slack offers a prayer of blessing for dinner. After a time of visiting, President Meldrim welcomes Paula Creswell (Manager, Cards for Prisoners) and Cheryl Wyma (Executive Assistant) as they share an update on 70x7 Life Recovery (one of our grant recipients).

ARTICLE V CLASSICAL EXAM OF ROBERT GRUESSING

A. Introduction of Candidate Robert Gruessing

Rev. David TenClay introduces Rob, giving thanks that God has brought Rob to serve as Pastor of Congregational Care at Bauer CRC. Rev. TenClay leads a prayer for Rob, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the exam.

B. Proper procedure:

1. Rev. Matthew Slack conducted the practical exam. **This was followed by a motion to proceed which was MSC.**

2. Rev. Cory Nederveld reported favorably on the service that Rob led and the sermon he preached on February 20, 2022 at Bauer CRC. **Motion was MSC to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.**
3. Rev. Jeffery Scripps presided over the theological exam. **Motion was made and seconded to accept Candidate Gruessing 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 voted on by paper ballot. Ballots are counted. **Motion is carried to accept Candidate Gruessing 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 Gruessing is invited forward to receive the good news. President Meldrim offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the present and future work and ministry of Rob at Bauer CRC. The ordination service is planned for Sunday, March 6, 2022, at Bauer CRC in Hudsonville.

ARTICLE VI: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note upcoming meeting dates:

- Our Spring meeting date is **Thursday, May 19, 2022**. We will meet at Fairway CRC in Jenison.