

# Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

## Session #110

Meeting at Fairway Christian Reformed Church (1165 44th Ave, Jenison, MI 49428)  
Thursday, May 19, 2022; 4:30 PM to 8:30 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	Terry Scholten	Anita Huizenga	Tyce Clement
Baldwin Street		Dave DenOuden Richard Meyer	
Bauer	Dave TenClay	Bill Lutke	Travis Ellens
Cottonwood		Bernie VanderKlok Steve Vander Wilp	Dan Winiarski
Evergreen Ministries		Rich Verkaik	
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Sue Helder	Alex Ruiter
First Hudsonville		Tom Victory	Keith Rillema
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Ron Koedam	Dave Teitsma
Georgetown	Marc Nelesen	Jeanne Kallemeyn	Shelly Tamminga
Hillcrest	Curt Walters	Eldon Jeltsema	Linda Witte
Immanuel	Jake Porter	Jim Huberts	Phyllis Wigger
Jamestown	Matthew Slack	Bill Kuiper	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Howard Feyen	Andy Brinks
Ridgewood	Cindy Holtrop	Ray Dennis	Ellen DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Brent Johnson	Kris VanHaitsma
Trinity	Gerry Koning Bryson Masiboh	Bob Posthumus	
Zutphen		Kevin Brouwer Jim Nykamp	Mike Vance

## **B. Other persons attending Classis:**

### Vision Team:

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

### Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Doug Fauble Classis Grandville  
 Rev. Al Gelder, Classis Grand Rapids East  
 Rev. Ron Goudswaard, Classis Thornapple Valley

### Guests:

Rev. Gale Tien, Messiah CRC  
 Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Ministry Champion  
 Ms. Carla Bieber, Resonate Global Mission  
 Rev. Jerry VanGroningen, retired pastor  
 Rev. Larry Baar, retired pastor  
 Rev. Ed Tamminga, retired pastor

Additional guests were in attendance from Fairway CRC (present for Rev. Jeremy Rhodes' *Colloquim Doctum*).

## **ARTICLE II. OPENING**

- A. Classis president Rev. Nate Meldrim calls the meeting to order and thanked Fairway CRC for their hospitality in hosting. He gave a brief overview of the evening's agenda.
- B. President Meldrim welcomed delegates 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 Peter 3:8-16. As believers we need not fear what the world fears. We live with hope because there is nothing out of God's control. President Meldrim opens with prayer.

## **ARTICLE III. OUR CLASSIS' VISION AND OUR FIVE VALUES**

President Meldrim reviews the Classis vision statement and the five values noting that this is what makes our classis unique and this is why we are meeting; to strengthen one another to transform lives and communities.

## **ARTICLE IV. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS**

### **A. Ministry Reports**

1. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
  - a. Written report is reviewed. Highlights include:
    - i. Grant recipients have been invited to apply for a 2023 grant.
    - ii. The Habitat for Humanity group continues to meet and is making progress on the Buttermilk Creek build on Prospect Street in Hudsonville.

- iii. Rev. Brandon Smith will be installed at Evergreen Ministries on Sunday, June 5. He is an ordained RCA pastor and his credentials will be held in the RCA Zeeland classis. He comes from Heartland RCA in Lafayette, IN.
    - iv. Zutphen CRC is in conversation with a seminarian who will graduate in May. He must be approved as a candidate by Synod before a call can be extended. If this does happen, Classis will have a Summer meeting to examine him.
  - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.
2. 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 in person in Grand Rapids from May 4-6, 2022, for the first time in 26 months. It was a joy to be together.
  - c. Each delegate received a copy of the COD Highlights from this meeting. Jeanne reviews the highlights.
  - d. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.
4. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting
- a. Our treasurer, Mr. Mel VanderBie, shared a positive and encouraging report regarding the classis' financial health. Cash balances are healthy; churches are faithful.
  - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve work of the Treasurer.
5. Student Fund Committee, Rev. Jeffery Scripps, reporting
- a. There are three students receiving aid: Justin Burns, Juliana Clink (Classis Georgetown), and Tyrell Natewa (Classis Red Mesa). Although he is still a student, Rob Janke has not asked to receive funds this year.
  - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve \$8,090.50 for financial aid for the next school year.
  - c. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to rename the "Student Aid Committee" as the "Classis Ministry Leadership Team" (CMLT).
  - d. The CMLT reports the following:
    - Three students who graduated 10 years ago and are in active CRC ministry have had their loans forgiven
    - Two students graduated this year. We pray they find a ministry position.
    - The CMLT is following up with students who are not serving in CRCNA and need to repay the loan changes:
    - The financial need form will no longer be used.
    - Ordination will no longer be required to grant aid.
  - e. Rev. Scripps thanks the Classis for the support of future church leaders.
  - f. The CMLT is thanked for their work on our behalf.

6. Regional Pastors, Rev. Marc Nelesen reporting:
  - a. Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman are our classis' regional pastors.
  - b. Rev. Nelesen notes that:
    - Regional Pastors serve as supporters, encouragers, and equippers for pastors.
    - Our classis has a unique relationship with Pine Rest. Counseling is available for pastors, families, and church staff.
    - Regional Pastors and our Classis Coordinator are available for consultation and support with churches.
  - c. Rev. Nelesen offers a prayer for health and strength for Mr. Jim Roskam, our Classis Coordinator who is presently in Hungary. Jim has tested positive for Covid and must remain in quarantine and isolation until he has a negative test.
  - 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 V: VIDEO**

- A. Delegates and guests watch the video, *A Place to Call Home: Strong Tower Ministries*, from Resonate Global Mission.
- B. President Meldrim offers a prayer for the ministry of Strong Tower, for Rev. Bryson Masiboh, and the partnership we have together.
- C. An invitation is given to churches to invite the Worship Team from Strong Tower to share their gifts in an evening worship service.

#### **ARTICLE VI: PRAYER TIME FOR SYNOD**

Delegates and guests spend time in prayer for Synod 2022.

#### **ARTICLE VII: DINNER AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP**

Rev. Matthew Slack offers a prayer of blessing for dinner.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: COLLOQUIUM DOCTUM OF REV. JEREMY RHODES**

- A. President Meldrim welcomes additional guests as well as the Synodical Deputies who are present for Rev. Rhodes colloquium doctum.
- B. **Background**  
 President Meldrim reviews the background for the colloquium doctum:
  1. At the Classis Georgetown meeting on May 20, 2021, Rev. Rhodes became a Commissioned Pastor under Article 23 of the Church Order.
  2. At the same meeting Classis determined that Rev. Rhodes, upon completing a learning plan endorsed by the CRCNA Candidacy Committee, would undergo a colloquium doctum to become ordained as a Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church under Article 8(c) of the Church Order. Rev. Rhodes has met the requirements laid out for him by the Candidacy Committee of the CRCNA.

**C. Introduction of Rev. Jeremy Rhodes**

Mr. John Wilks from Fairway CRC introduces Rev. Jeremy Rhodes, sharing a bit of Jeremy's history. Fairway is thankful that God has brought Rev. Rhodes to preach and minister to their congregation and the community. Rev. Ed Tamminga, who has served as Jeremy's mentor, offers a prayer for Jeremy, asking for the Holy Spirit's blessing on the exam.

**D. Proper procedure:**

1. Rev. Terry Scholten conducted the practical exam. **This was followed by a motion to proceed which was MSC.**
2. The sermon, "Alive in Christ" was evaluated, discussed, and approved at the May 20, 2021 Classis Meeting. The CRCNA Candidacy Committee deems one sermon evaluation to be sufficient. The Classis Vision Team concurs with this recommendation. **Motion was MSC to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.**
3. Rev. Gerry Koning presided over the Biblical/Theological exam. **Motion was made and seconded to accept Rev. Rhodes 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. Rhodes into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. The Synodical Deputies give their concurrence to classis' decision.**

**E. Executive session ends:**

All who left the room are called back. Rev. Rhodes is invited forward to receive the good news. Pastors gather around for a prayer of thanksgiving led by Rev. David DenHaan. The ordination service will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2022, at Fairway CRC in Jenison, MI.

**ARTICLE IX: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED.**

Delegates and guests join in the singing of *The Doxology*.

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenda Tebben*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note: Our Fall meeting date is **Thursday, October 27, 2022.**