

Session #112  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CLASSICAL EXAM of Candidate Mark Elffers**  
**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

12 noon to 3:00 PM

Zutphen Christian Reformed Church  
 3223 – 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426  
 Hudsonville, MI 49426



**Officers of the Day**

Rev. Matthew Slack, President  
 Rev. Sam Krikke, Vice President  
 Ms. Glenda Tamming-Tebben, Stated Clerk

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.

**I. Prior Meeting Activity**

**Article 1**

**Credentials:** Classical credentials were submitted before this meeting; each delegate received a name tag upon arrival.

**Article 2**

**Delegates in attendance:**

| CHURCH               | PASTOR(S)      | ELDER(S)       | DEACON      |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Alive Ministries     | Terry Scholten | Mel VanderBie  |             |
| Baldwin Street       |                | Ken Dornbush   | Duane Vork  |
| Bauer                | Dave TenClay   | Gary Tamminga  |             |
| Cottonwood           | Matt Palsrok   | Ed Steenbergen |             |
| Evergreen Ministries | No delegates   |                |             |
| Fairway              | Jeremy Rhodes  | Jim Ruitter    | Chuck Wilks |
| First Hudsonville    | David Jolman   | Tom Victory    |             |
| Forest Grove         |                | Randy Dozeman  |             |
| Georgetown           |                | Jan Dykstra    |             |

|                        |                                |  |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Hillcrest              | Cody Nederveld<br>Curt Walters | Doug Holtrop                                   |                 |
| Immanuel               | Jake Porter                    | Jim Huberts                                    |                 |
| Jamestown              | Matthew Slack                  | Hank Bosma                                     |                 |
| Messiah                | Nate Meldrim<br>Gale Tien      | Hank Bloem                                     |                 |
| Ridgewood              |                                | Deb DeVries<br>Arlene Wassink                  | Bart DeJong     |
| Searchlight Ministries | Sam Krikke                     | Brent Johnson                                  | Kris VanHaitsma |
| The Refuge             | Gerry Koning<br>Bryson Masiboh |  |                 |
| Zutphen                |                                | Dave Brouwer<br>Jeff Ensing<br>Dave VanHaitsma |                 |

**Other persons attending Classis for all or part of the meeting:**

Staff:

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Ass't Treasurer/WebKeeper

Mr. Jim Roskam, Classis Coordinator

Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Doug Fauble (Classis Grandville)

Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland)

Rev. George Vink (Classis Grand Rapids South)

Candidate:

Mr. Mark Elffers

Guests:

Rev. Larry Baar

Rev. Jerry VanGroningen

Members of Zutphen CRC

**II. Welcome, Food and Fellowship, Devotions, Roll**

**Article 3**

- A. Opening: President Slack welcomed all in attendance and asked a blessing on our meal and fellowship.
- B. Food and Fellowship: A catered lunch was enjoyed by all.
- C. Welcome: President Slack officially welcomes delegates, guests, and synodical deputies to the meeting. A special welcome is given to Mr. Mark Elffers.
- D. Devotions: President Slack shared Paul's words from the book of Ephesians and leads in an opening prayer.
- E. Roll Call of delegates is taken.

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### III. Classis Business

#### Article 4

- A. President Slack updated Classis on the status of an Oversight Committee for the Council of Georgetown CRC following the July 21 Classis meeting. The Classis Vision Team's recommendation to Georgetown Council is: *If Georgetown CRC employs a full-time STM (Specialized Transitional Minister) an oversight committee will not be necessary. The STM will provide the oversight that is needed. The council of Georgetown along with the STM is encouraged to set clear, measurable goals and objectives (Church Order, Supplement, Article 17-a).*

### IV. Classical Exam

#### Article 5

A. **Introduction of Candidate Mark Elffers by Mr. Jeff Ensing**

Mr. Jeff Ensing, chair of Council at Zutphen CRC, thanks the Classis Vision Team for their assistance and Rev. Dave Jolman for his wise counsel as they worked through the details of Mark coming to serve at Zutphen CRC.

Mark interned at Borculo CRC in the summer of 2021. During this time Zutphen CRC learned that Mark would become a candidate following Synod 2022. Time was spent getting to know Mark and having him lead worship at Zutphen in February 2022. It is evident that Mark wants to serve his Lord and also the congregation of Zutphen. They are thankful and excited to have him!

Mr. Ensing led a prayer for guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the exam.

B. **Proper procedure:**

1. Rev. Cory Nederveld conducted the practical exam. Questions are received from the floor. **This was followed by a motion to proceed which was MSC.**
2. Rev. Curt Walters (in concurrence with Rev. Jeffery Scripps) reported favorably on the worship service Candidate Elffers led and the sermon he preached on August 28, 2022 at Zutphen CRC. **Motion was MSC to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.**
3. Rev. Matt Palsrok presided over the theological exam. Questions received from the floor. **Motion was made and seconded to accept Candidate Elffers into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.**
4. Executive session is declared (all those who are not delegates are excused). Motion is discussed.
5. President Slack offers a prayer for the ensuing vote.
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 Mark Elffers into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church. The Synodical Deputies give their concurrence to classis' decision.**
8. Executive Session ends. All who left the room are called back.

## **V. Closing Moments**

### **Article 7**

#### **A. Results announced**

Candidate Elffers is congratulated and welcomed into the ministry.

#### **B. Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing**

Members of Zutphen CRC are invited to come forward for laying on of hands and prayer, led by Rev. Matthew Slack.

#### **C. Ordination service**

This service is planned for the morning service on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at Zutphen CRC.

#### **D. Closing benediction**

#### **E. Meeting is adjourned at 3:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenda Tammíng-Tebben*

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown