

# Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #113

Meeting at Alive Ministries ~ 263 Church Street, Jenison, MI 49428

Thursday, October 27, 2022; 4:00 PM to 8:45 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	PASTOR(S)	ELDER(S)	DEACON
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Mark Trumpie	Travis Diemer
Baldwin Street		Richard Meyer	Duane Vork
Bauer	Dave TenClay	John Boelema	Joel Dreyer
Cottonwood		Ed Steenbergen Bernie VanDerKlok	Dan Winiarski
Evergreen Ministries	Jason Vermeulen	Robin Schreur	
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Micki Wiersma	Mary Westerhof
First Hudsonville		Tom Victory	Jason Dekker
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Randy Dozeman	
Georgetown		Preston Kallemeyn	Scott Van Wyk
Hillcrest	Cody Nederveld	Kevin VanDyke	Chris Kucharski
Immanuel	Jake Porter	Colin Herd	
Jamestown	Matthew Slack	Ryan Miedema	Jeff DeVries
Messiah	Nate Meldrim Gale Tien	Hank Bloem	
Ridgewood		Deb DeVries	Bart DeJong
Searchlight Ministries	Sam Krikke	Ryan Scholma	Sue Lyzenga
The Refuge	Gerry Koning Bryson Masiboh	Ross Jelsema	
Zutphen	Mark Elffers	Craig Boersen	

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

Vision Team Staff:

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Ass't Treasurer/WebKeeper  
Mr. Jim Roskam, Classis Coordinator  
Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk  
Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Bryce Mensink (Classis Grandville)  
Rev. Thea Leunk (Classis Grand Rapids East)  
Rev. George Vink (Classis Grand Rapids South)

Candidate:

Ms. Noelle Jacobs

Guests:

Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, COD rep  
Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion  
Rev. David DenHaan, PCR – CRCNA  
Rev. John Mondt, Resonate Global Mission  
Mrs. Laura Keeley, Faith Formation  
Mr. Jeff Bolt, Director of Advancement, CRCNA  
Rev. Larry Baar, retired pastor  
Rev. Jerry VanGroningen, retired pastor  
Rev. James Evenhouse, retired pastor  
Dr. Tim Howerzyl, Kuyper College  
Rev. Scott Stark, GVSU Student Ministry

Additional guests were in attendance from Alive Ministries as well as staff and students from GVSU Student Ministry (present for Candidate Noelle Jacobs' examination).

**Article II. OPENING**

- A. Classis president Rev. Nate Meldrim calls the meeting to order and thanks Alive Ministries for their hospitality in hosting. He gave a brief overview of the evening's agenda.
- B. President Meldrim welcomes delegates, synodical deputies and guests.
- C. Roll Call of delegates is taken. First time delegates sign the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC.

**Article III. CLASSIS BUSINESS**

**A. Opening Devotions:**

A time of devotions is led by President Meldrim who reads verses from Philippians 4 opens the meeting with prayer.

## B. Ministry Reports:

1. Vision Team, Mr. Jim Roskam reporting:
  - a. Mr. Roskam reviews the written report. Highlights include:
    - i. The Vision Team worked on details of special classis meetings held in the summer.
    - ii. A new Disability Concerns Advocate and a new Safe Church Coordinator are needed in our classis.
    - iii. The Vision Team continually seeks new members for the Vision Team.
  - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the work of the Vision Team.
  
2. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben reporting:
  - a. Ms. Tebben reviews the written report, highlighting the following:
    - i. Church/Pastor Updates:
      - Alive in Grandville, a church plant of Alive in Jenison, held their last worship service on Sunday, July 31. The week of July 31-August 5, 2022 was considered the 'hard stop' for Alive in Grandville.
      - The credentials of Rev. Robert Timmer's have been transferred from Fairway CRC to Faith Community CRC in Wyoming, MI. Rev. Timmer is a retired pastor.
      - Rev. Brandon Smith is now serving as lead pastor at Evergreen Ministries.
      - Rev. Mark Elffers was installed as Minister of the Word on Sunday, September 11, in Zutphen CRC.
      - Ridgewood CRC is seeking a full-time lead pastor. Rev. Marc Nelesen is serving as the counselor for Ridgewood.
      - A new STM will begin at Georgetown CRC in early November.
    - ii. Ms. Tebben will be attending the Stated Clerks' Gathering in California from January 11-13, 2023.
    - iii. Action items, requiring Synodical Deputy approval will be addressed after the dinner hour when the deputies are present.
  - b. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.
  
3. Council of Delegates, Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, reporting:
  - a. The COD met in Grand Rapids, MI, from October 12-14, 2022. Each delegate received a copy of the COD Highlights from the February meeting
  - b. Mrs. Kallemeyn highlights the need for a prayer mobilizer in our classis. Names of persons who would be able to serve should be sent to Jon Hoekema.
  - c. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.
  
4. Treasurer's report, Mel VanderBie reporting:
  - a. Our treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, reviews the financial report.
  - b. All churches must complete the information for the number of professing members and the ministry pledges. Forms should be returned to Mr. VanderBie.

- c. Mr. VanderBie reports that an annual review was done, and he thanks Mrs. Kathy Jelsema for her work in preparing for this review.
  - d. Our treasurer, Mr. Mel Vander Bie, presents the budget for 2023.
  - e. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the 2023 budget.
  - f. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried** to approve the work of the treasurer and assistant treasurer.
5. Student Fund Committee (CMLT), Rev. Jeffery Scripps reporting
- a. The Student Fund is transitioning to CMLT (Classis Ministry Leadership Team)
  - b. Rev. Scripps thanks the Classis for the support of future church leaders.
  - c. At present there is only one student receiving aid, Mrs. Juliana Clink.
  - d. If there are any persons in our churches who are considering a future in ministry, please send them to the CMLT for support.
6. Regional Pastors report
- a. President Meldrim reviews the report highlighting the Pastor Retreat on Wednesday, November 16.
7. Credentials Committee, Ms. Glenda Tebben reporting:
- a. Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order.
  - b. Three items from the credentials are brought to the attention of Classis:
    - i. From Evergreen Ministries: *We are looking forward to Noelle's exam. She was a part of our staff for a year or so, and we wish her well.*
    - ii. From Forest Grove CRC: *While we appreciate the aims of the Code of Conduct, we have serious concerns. Please see the one-page letter sent to our stated clerk.*
    - iii. From Zutphen CRC: *The Zutphen CRC Elder delegate, Craig Boersen, and pastor, Rev. Mark Elffers, in accordance with Church Order Supplement 40-b, believe that the seating of women delegates is in violation of the Word of God. We would like to record our protest on the appropriate credentials."*
- C. Synod 2022, Classis Delegates Report, Rev. Cory Nederveld reporting:**
- a. On behalf of the delegates, Rev. Nederveld reviews a very detailed summary report which included highlights of decisions made as well as information about things that have happened since Synod met.
  - b. President Meldrim thanks Rev. Nederveld and all the delegates who represented our classis at Synod 2022.
- D. Code of Conduct, discussion led by Rev. David DenHaan**
- a. Rev. Zach King, the new General Secretary of the CRCNA, has asked that classis churches review the Code of Conduct and provide feedback.
  - b. Rev. DenHaan, from Pastor Church Resources, shares the history behind the Code of Conduct, why it is coming to Synod 2023, and what it is all about.
  - c. Rev. DenHaan invites table discussions on the topic of "What kind of congregations do we want to be?" Key characteristics are shared.
  - d. Time is allotted for questions and concerns regarding the Code of Conduct.

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

President Nate Meldrim offers a prayer of blessing for dinner. After a time of visiting, President Meldrim welcomes Mr. Jeff Bolt, Director of Advancement, CRCNA, who gives an update on Ministry Share pledges and shares the value of giving in our denomination.

#### **ARTICLE V: CLASSIS BUSINESS, continued:**

- A. Rev. Mark Bennink is taking his Clinical Pastoral Education course at Pine Rest from October 2022 - March 2023. Upon completion of the course, he will be eligible for chaplain endorsement and will be called by his church, Holland Heights CRC. 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 in accordance with Church Order Article 17c. Motion is carried. Synodical Deputies concur.**
- B. The council of Bauer CRC has voted to proceed with the process of calling Dr. Timothy Howerzyl under the provisions of Church Order Article 12c. Dr. Howerzyl is a full-time employee at Kuyper College and will not be on staff at Bauer CRC. Bauer CRC is asking Classis Georgetown to approve this request with the understanding that Dr. Howerzyl's work is consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word. Dr. Howerzyl is present at the meeting and shares about the work and ministry he is doing at Kuyper College. **Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown approve the position of Dr. Tim Howerzyl according to Article 12c. Motion is carried. Synodical Deputies concur.**
- C. Alive Ministries has called Ms. Noelle Jacobs to serve as Associate Campus Minister at Campus Ministries at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, under the provisions of Church Order Article 12c. Rev. Terry Scholten, pastor of Alive Ministries, reviews the job description and the oversight that Alive will give to Noelle in this position; said work is consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word. **Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown approve the position of Ms. Noelle Jacobs according to Article 12c. Motion is carried. Synodical Deputies concur.**

#### **ARTICLE VI. CLASSICAL EXAM OF NOELLE JACOBS**

- A. **Introduction of Candidate Noelle Jacobs by Rev. Scott Stark**  
Rev. Scott Stark, from Campus Ministry at GVSU (Campus Minister, Director of Ministry Operations and Mission Advancement) introduces Noelle to all present. Rev. Stark leads a prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the exam.

**B. Proper procedure:**

1. Rev. Jake Porter conducted the practical exam. Questions are received from the floor. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried to proceed.**
2. Rev. Matthew Slack (in concurrence with Rev. Mark Bennink) reported favorably on the sermon Candidate Jacobs preached on July 24, 2022, at Alive Ministries. They affirm her gift of teaching and preaching and are grateful to God's calling on Noelle, the gifts He has given her, and the ministry He's prepare her for. highly recommend. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried to proceed. The Synodical Deputies concur with this decision.**
3. Rev. Gerry Koning presided over the theological exam. Questions received from the floor. **Motion was made and seconded to accept Candidate Jacobs 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 Meldrim 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 (36, yes; 3, no; 3 abstain). **Motion is carried to accept Candidate Noelle Jacobs 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 Jacobs is congratulated and welcomed into the ministry. Guests and friends are invited to come forward for laying on of hands and prayer, led by Rev. Terry Scholten pastor of Alive Ministries. The Ordination service is planned for Sunday, January 29, 2023.

**ARTICLE VI. CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT**

- A. President Meldrim closing with the benediction.
- B. Meeting is adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tamming-Tebben  
Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

**Future meeting dates of Classis Georgetown:**

- **Thursday, February 16, 2023**
- **Thursday, May 11, 2023**
- **Thursday, October 26, 2023**

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