

# Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

## Session #115

Meeting at Strong Tower Ministry (2141 Porter Street SW, Wyoming, MI)

Thursday, May 11, 2023; 4:15 PM to 7:45 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.

### **Value: Risky Compassion**

*We extend uncommon generosity to the suffering, and work to eliminate the causes of that suffering in order 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

Mark Trumpie

Bruce Tebben

Baldwin Street

Richard Meyer

Duane Vork

Bauer

Brian Boucek

Shaun Allen

Cottonwood

Matt Palsrok

Kevin Balcer

Dan Winiarski

Evergreen Ministries

Brandon Smith

Robin Schreur

Fairway

Jeremy Rhodes

Scott Jongsma

Linda Elliott

First Hudsonville

Dave Jolman

Ernie Peters

Forest Grove

Jeffery Scripps

Randy Dozeman

Keith Koetje

Georgetown

Doug Kamstra

Preston Kallemeyn

Hillcrest

Mike Hoekstra

Chris Kucharski

Jim Holtrop

Immanuel

Jake Porter

Jim Huberts

Jamestown

Matthew Slack

Bill Schoonveld

Messiah

Nate Meldrim

Jim VanDyke

Gale Tien

Ridgewood

Cindy Holtrop

Deb DeVries

Bonnie Grysen

Searchlight

Sam Krikke

Herb Kraker

Kris VanHaitsma

The Refuge

Gerry Koning

Carol Newman

Bryson Masiboh

Zutphen

Mark Elffers

Dave VanHaitsma

Sam Honderd

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

### Vision Team Staff:

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

### Guests:

Antwan Brown, 70x7 Ministries  
 Laura Keeley, CRCNA  
 Rev. Cody Zuiderveen, GVSU Student Ministries

Additional guests were in attendance from The Refuge and Strong Tower Ministry.

## **ARTICLE II. OPENING**

- A. Classis president Rev. Nate Meldrim calls the meeting to order and thanked Strong Tower for their hospitality in hosting. He gave a brief overview of the evening's agenda.
- B. President Meldrim welcomed delegates and guests.
- C. President Meldrim opened the meeting with prayer.
- D. Roll Call of delegates is taken. First time delegates are asked to sign the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC.

## **ARTICLE III. TIME OF WORSHIP AND STORIES OF RISKY COMPASSION**

- A. Rev. Bryson Masiboh, pastor of Strong Tower, extends a welcome on behalf of his church and introduces members of Strong Tower. He explains the diversity of worship they experience at Strong Tower. Most members are from East Africa and their common language is Swahili. The church is growing numerically and spiritually. Rev. Masiboh thanks Classis for the gift of the church van.
- B. Strong Tower's dance team shares their gift of dance with us.
- C. We hear testimonies from members of Strong Tower. They are thankful that, in spite of their diversity, there is unity in the Word of God. Each one is so thankful to worship in their own language and culture.
- D. All present join in praise and worship with the band team from Strong Tower.
- E. Additional testimonies are heard about the English Classes offered as well as the weekly tutoring sessions for young people so they are prepared for school.
- F. Praise and worship continues with the band team from Strong Tower: *"There's singing in the house of the Lord!"*
- G. Stories of Risky Compassion
  - i. Rev. Matt Slack, his wife, Emily, and daughter, Juniper are going to Türkiye with Resonate Global Mission. He shares that the first-ever church plants were in modern day Türkiye, many New Testament letters were written from Türkiye as well as several creeds. Christianity was first legalized in modern day Türkiye, but now the need for the gospel is huge. Matt invites us to "go with him" through prayer and support.
  - ii. Rev. Jeremy Rhodes shares a mission opportunity that Fairway CRC has been actively involved with: Family Promise of West Michigan (an agency that provides hospitality and to homeless families and keeps them together in a time of crisis).

- H. Delegates and guests spend time in praise and worship, led by the praise band from Strong Tower.
- I. Our Classis prayer catalyst, Rev. Jake Porter speaks of his role in our classis. His goal is to meet with all churches and learn the stories of how God is working in and through our churches. He will then share these stories with all the churches. Churches are asked to connect with Jake regarding praises and prayer requests. Jake offers a prayer for our classis and for dinner.

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

Time is spent visiting with members of Strong Tower Ministry enjoying a delicious meal prepared by them.

#### **ARTICLE V. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS**

##### **Ministry Reports**

1. Credentials Committee (Rev. Cindy Holtrop and Rev. Sam Krikke); Rev. Cindy Holtrop reporting:
  - a. Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order.
  - b. Matters from the credentials:
    - i. Additional Comments (from Zutphen CRC):  
The Zutphen CRC delegates, in accordance with Church Order Article 40-a Supplement 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.
2. Stated Clerk, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
  - a. Written report is reviewed. Highlights include:
    - i. Grant recipients have been invited to apply for a 2024 grant.
    - ii. Churches are requested to be in prayer for Synod 2023.
    - iii. Rev. Michael Ten Haken from Pease CRC in Pease, MN, has accepted a call to Ridgewood CRC. He will be installed on Sunday, August 13. We rejoice with Ridgewood in this good news.
    - iv. Rev. Matthew Slack from Jamestown CRC will be leaving for Türkiye (through Resonate Global Mission). Jamestown has formed a Search Committee.
  - b. At the request of the Hillcrest CRC council; A motion is made, seconded, and carried to release Rev. Bruce Leiter from ministry in the CRC.
  - c. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.
3. Vision Team, Rev. Matthew Slack reporting:
  - a. Written report is reviewed. Highlights include:
    - i. The Vision Team welcomes two new members – Rev. Jeffery Scripps and Rev. Cody Zuiderveen.
    - ii. We continue to emphasize our five values at our Classis Meetings.
    - iii. We invite pastors to share “stories of call”.
  - b. The Vision Team is thanked for their work.

4. Council of Delegates (COD); Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn reporting:
  - a. The Council of Delegates (COD) is the governing entity/body that governs the CRCNA. The COD met from May 3-5 in Grand Rapids.
  - b. Jeanne shares meeting highlights and thanks the delegates for the privilege of being the COD representative of Classis Georgetown.
  - c. The Clerk will email written highlights to all churches when they arrive.
  - d. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.
  
5. 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 is made, seconded and carried to approve the work of the treasurer.
  - c. Mel is thanked for his work.
  
6. Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT), Rev. Jeffery Scripps, reporting:
  - a. Rev. Scripps reviews the written report noting that no students have applied/reapplied for student aid for 2023-24.
  - b. The CMLT will begin processing Article 8 and Article 23 requests.
  - c. Motion is made, seconded, and carried to approve \$500.00 for financial aid for the next school year for Mr. Tyrell Natewa with Classis Red Mesa.
  - d. The CMLT is thanked for their work on our behalf.
  
7. Regional Pastors, Rev. Dave Jolman reporting:
  - a. Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman are our classis' regional pastors.
  - b. Regional pastors are "pastors for pastors" and are in place to provide:
    - pro-active supportive encouragement to Classis Georgetown pastors,
    - responsive support in times of need or crisis,
    - counsel to pastors and councils when invited to do so,
    - good process and supportive advocacy when needed,
    - opportunities for classis pastors and other church leaders for ongoing learning.
  - c. Two resources are available for pastors and/or churches: Pine Rest Partnership and Ministry to Clergy Spouse.
  - d. Regional pastors are thanked for their work and ministry.

**ARTICLE VI: OUR HOSTS ARE THANKED FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY; A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING IS OFFERED.**

**ARTICLE VII: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Glenda Tebben  
 Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Please note:

Our Fall meeting date is Thursday, October 26, 2023; Host: Immanuel CRC  
 Agenda items are due (to the Stated Clerk) by Monday, October 2, 2023.