

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #116

Meeting at Immanuel CRC (3520 Kiel Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426)

Thursday, October 26, 2023

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. Sam Krikke

Vice-President: Rev. Jeffery Scripps

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		Mark Trumpie Paul VanZalen	Jana VanderLaan
Baldwin Street		Richard Meyer	Duane Vork
Bauer	David TenClay	Don Morren	Matt Voss
Cottonwood		Ralph DenHartigh Jeff DeKoning	Brian Lerch
Evergreen Ministries	Jason Vermeulen	Robin Schreur	
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Steve Laninga	Brandon Vugteveen
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Tom Victory	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Ken Bredeweg Randy Dozeman	
Georgetown	Doug Kamstra	Larry Osterbaan	
Hillcrest	Cory Nederveld	Kevin VanDyke	
Immanuel	Jake Porter	Brian VanZanten	Bryan Albers
Jamestown		Bill Schoonveld Ed Shaarda	
Messiah	Gale Tien	Scott Wustman	Chris Slager
Ridgewood	Cindy Holtrop	Deb DeVries	Bart DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Herb Kraker	Sue Lyzenga
The Refuge	Gerry Koning Bryson Masiboh		Craig Ghent
Zutphen	Mark Elffers	Merle DeWeerd	Duane DeWeerd

B. Other persons attending Classis:

Vision Team members/staff:

Rev. Cody Zuiderveen, GVSU Student Ministries
 Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Asst. Treasurer, Web Keeper
 Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk
 Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer

Guests:

Rev. Jerry VanGroningen, retired CRC pastor
 Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Ministry Champion
 Mr. Travis Steinhoff, Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity
 Mr. Jim Roskam, Georgetown CRC
 Ms. Idella Winfield, *THRIVE* Regional Connector
 Mrs. Laura Keeley, *THRIVE* Regional Connector
 Rev. Scott Stark, Resonate Global Mission
 Ms. Cheryl Wyma, 70x7

Additional guests from our host church, Immanuel CRC

ARTICLE II. OPENING

- A. Classis president, Rev. Sam Krikke, declared classis constituted and welcomed delegates and guests. He thanks Immanuel CRC for hosting the meeting. Rev. Krikke reviewed the meeting agenda, giving a preview of the evening's format.
- B. Roll Call is taken. Nine first-time delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers.
- C. The classis value we are focusing on in our meeting is **Collaborative Relationships** *"We call out the strengths of each church and pursue ministry together to create new ways of transforming lives and communities."* Rev. Sam Krikke, leads an opening devotion focusing on Romans 16. In this passage Paul greets all those who are instrumental to his work of spreading the news of Jesus. In Classis Georgetown we work together to reach more and more people with the good news of the gospel. When we work together, we can do more. As a classis we pursue ministry together which is why Collaborative Relationships is one of our values. Sam led in prayer.
- D. A time of worship in song is led by Immanuel CRC. Rev. Jake Porter offers a prayer, reminding delegates of the WM Prayer Gathering that will be held November 7-9.

ARTICLE III. WE CELEBRATE COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- A. As we focus on the value of Collaborative Relationships, we highlight the relationship our classis has with Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. Rev. Krikke introduced Mr. Travis Steinhoff, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. Travis gave an overview of the Habitat organization. He shared Lakeshore's past (house at 48th/Baldwin), present (Buttermilk Creek project), and (hopefully) future involvement with Classis Georgetown. Volunteers continue to be needed to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Travis asks for prayers for the new homeowners in the Buttermilk Creek townhomes.

- B. On behalf of Classis Georgetown, Mr. Jim Roskam presents a financial gift to Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. While serving as our Classis Coordinator Jim was heavily invested in connecting with Habitat. Jim highlights how business and churches stepped in to help with the building projects in Hudsonville, noting that everything Habitat does is bathed in Christian principles.
- C. Jim offers a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, giving thanks for the relationship we have with Habitat, and asking God to bless our involvement now and in the future.

ARTICLE IV. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS

A. Ministry Reports from Our Classis Representatives

1. Council of Delegates (COD)
Our COD representative, Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, is unable to be present. The COD met in Grand Rapids from October 11-13, 2023. Delegates are referred to the written report that Jeanne prepared.
2. Thrive: Ms. Idella Winfield and Mrs. Laura Keeley, *THRIVE* Regional Connectors Idella and Laura explained the formation of Thrive by combining nine smaller independent ministries. Their goal is to help congregations flourish by providing support and resources that can address multiple needs a church might have. They want churches to resource them and invite church leaders to let Thrive know what works for them and what needs they may have.
3. Resonate Global Mission: Rev, Scott Stark
Rev. Stark, Resonate's new Regional Mission Leader for the Great Lakes Region, explains his role with Resonate. He will be working with and equipping churches for mission. Scott tells us that the fields are ripe for harvest, we must share the gospel.
4. Classical Ministry Leadership Team: Rev. Jeffery Scripps
 - a. Rev. Scripps highlights items from the written report.
 - b. Motion made and supported **to approve \$5,312.50 for support of Juliana Clink as an MDiv Student at Calvin Theological Seminary for the school year 2023-2024.** The motion is carried.
 - c. The CMLT has very good policies and criteria in place to guide student decisions regarding qualifying and levels of support. These loans are forgiven over a ten-year period of ministry within the CRCNA. Rev. Rob Janke, a recipient of Classis Georgetown support, requests to be released from the obligation of paying back the loan. He is affiliating with the RCA. Motion made and supported **to deny Rev. Rob Janke's request for loan forgiveness.**
Discussion on the motion. Motion is voted on. Motion is carried.
 - d. The chair, Rev. Krikke, thanks Jeff and the CMLT for their work.

DINNER AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Jake Porter offers a prayer for our dinner.

ARTICLE IV. BUSINESS OF CLASSIS continues

5. Regional Pastors: Rev. David Jolman
 - a. Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Dave Jolman are our classis' regional pastors. They are pastors to pastors, and are also available to support church councils.
 - b. In order to build relationships among the pastors a lunch is scheduled on a monthly basis.
 - c. Rev. Jolman highlights the ministry to clergy spouses, led by Connie DeHaan. Connie is a great encourager who offers support to spouses of pastors. Eight women are connected with this ministry. They meet every month for dinner.
 - d. Delegates are reminded of the partnership our Classis has with Pine Rest. Pastors, their families, and church staff are each able to attend three free counselling sessions.
 - e. The Regional Pastors are thanked for their work and ministry.

6. Youth Champion: Mr. Fig VanderMolen
 - a. Fig "champions" the cause of youth ministry in our classis. He works alongside youth leaders.
 - b. Fig distributes a prayer guide that highlights the youth ministry groups and leaders in our classis.
 - c. Fig shares a new initiative called TENx10 which launched on October 10, 2023. The goal of TENx10 is to see 10,000,000 youth have abundant life through Christ over the next 10 years. Fig would like to offer a training for Youth Leaders regarding the upcoming TENx10 resources.
 - d. Each month area Youth Leaders gather for connection, encouragement, learning and prayer.
 - e. Fig is thanked for his work with our youth and their leaders.

7. Campus Ministry at GVSU: Rev. Noelle Jacobs
 - a. Campus Ministry at GVSU is discipling leaders to make disciples. This ministry is *with* students *not for* them.
 - b. Noelle shared testimonies of students and the lifechanging encounters experienced at GVSU.
 - c. Noelle invites each delegate to be part of the story, encouraging them to attend a service at "The Well". She asks for prayers for this ministry - that the students may abide in the Lord and that there will be continued provision as needs increase in challenging financial times.
 - d. Noelle thanks the Classis for their continued support.
 - e. Noelle is thanked for her report and for her active engagement with Campus Ministry.

8. Synod 2023 report: Rev. David TenClay
 - a. Dave thanks the classis for the opportunity to serve as one of our delegates at synod. Referencing Dan Winiarski's written report, Dave agrees with Dan's overall assessment and shared his own observations.
 - b. Classis Georgetown sent two overtures to Synod:
 - The first overture (discipline for Neland Ave. CRC) was not upheld. Synod did not go with what we overtured.

- The second overture (required gravamina) was not dealt with due to lack of time. This will be addressed at Synod 2024.
 - c. Dave is thanked for serving as our one of our representatives at Synod.
9. Rev. Mark Elffers offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the work and ministry of our representatives

B. Ministry Reports from Our Classis Leaders

1. Stated Clerk and Vision Team report, Ms. Glenda Tebben, reporting:
 - a. Written report is reviewed. Glenda Tebben highlights several items from her report:
 - We rejoice with Jamestown CRC as Rev. Chris Bouma has accepted a call to be their new pastor.
 - The credentials of Rev. Michael TenHaken have been received from Pease CRC (Classis Lake Superior). Rev. TenHaken is serving as the lead pastor at Ridgewood CRC.
 - Rev. Mark Bennink's credentials have been transferred to Holland Heights CRC (Classis Holland).
 - b. Rev. Sam Krikke shares with Classis that the Vision Team has spent time discussing Article 14e of the CRCNA Church Order and asks: *"What does Classis Georgetown require in order to convene an Article 14e Classis meeting for someone who is seeking to be declared eligible for a call?"*
 Motion made and supported: **Prior to a 14e interview with classis the candidate will provide: Endorsement from a church council, a statement of ministry readiness (will ordinarily come from a Candidacy Committee approved professional therapist), a letter of recommendation from a Vision Team approved mentor, and, per the church order, prepare a narrative that helps explain the circumstances for the resignation and the desire for call eligibility.**
 Motion is discussed. Motion is carried.
 - c. Rev. Gerry Koning references the handout regarding the Classis Church Planting Fund. This comes as a recommendation from the Vision Team.
 Motion made and supported: **Going forward the Classis Georgetown Church Planting Fund could be used for any of the following expenses: real estate, construction costs, remodel costs, durable equipment costs, or facility rental expense for any Classis Georgetown church plant. This fund would not be used for salary or program expenses of the church plant. In the event of the church plant closing, proceeds from the sale of any assets would be used to pay back the Classis Georgetown Church Planting Fund.**
 Motion is carried.
 - d. Motion is made and supported **to approve the work of the Vision Team and the Stated Clerk.** Motion is carried.
2. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting
 - a. A review of 2022 books completed. Mel thanks Kathy Jelsema for her work in entering data into QuickBooks pro.

- b. Mr. VanderBie distributed forms to the churches requiring membership count and a request for ministry share pledges. Churches are asked to provide this information to Mel by November 30, 2023.
3. Presentation of 2024 budget, Mr. Mel VanderBie, reporting:
 - a. Mel VanderBie gives an overview of the proposed 2024 budget noting an increase in church planting fund.
 - b. Motion is made and supported **to approve the proposed 2024 budget along with the work of the treasurer.** Motion is carried.
4. Credentials Committee, Rev. Jeremy Rhodes reporting
 - a. Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order.
 - b. Zutphen CRC noted the following in their credentials:
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.

ARTICLE V: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED;

- A. Rev. Sam Krikke reminds delegates of our 2024 meeting dates noting that our May meeting is scheduled to be held on Ascension Day, May 9. Classis would meet later in the afternoon, conducting the “business of classis” and this would be followed by a classis-wide Ascension Day service. If a church plans to host an Ascension Day service and this meeting interferes with that, please let the Stated Clerk know.
- B. Rev. Dale VanderVeen, former pastor at Georgetown CRC, passed away on October 26.
- C. Rev. Krikke offered a closing prayer of thanksgiving after which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Glenda Tebben
Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

Future meeting dates of Classis Georgetown:

- Thursday, February 29, 2024
- Thursday, May 9, 2024 (Ascension Day)
- Thursday, October 10, 2024