

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #118

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Meeting at First CRC Hudsonville - 5486 32nd Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426

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.

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Sam Krikke

Vice-President: Rev. Jeffery Scripps

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

Article 1: OPENING OF CLASSIS

- 1.1 Classis president Rev. Sam Krikke called the meeting to order and thanked First Hudsonville CRC for their generosity in hosting.
- 1.2 The chair gives a brief overview of the agenda. The Classis Value that we will focus on this evening is Healthy Leaders: *We equip leaders to transform lives and communities.*
- 1.3 The chair introduces our Classis prayer catalyzer, Rev. Jake Porter, who will be leading in prayer (or will have others pray) at various times during the evening's meeting.
- 1.4 President Krikke welcomed delegates, synodical deputies, and guests.
- 1.5 Roll Call of delegates is taken. Nine first-time delegates to Classis Georgetown signed the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC.

Church	Pastor	Elder(s)	Deacon(s)
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten		Bruce Tebben
Baldwin Street			Duane Vork
Bauer	Dave TenClay	Jeff Leegwater	Joel Dreyer
Cottonwood	Matt Palsrok	Bruce Deemter	Brian Lerch
Evergreen Ministries	Brandon Smith	Daena Vuyst	Kurt Scholtens
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Al Wiersema	Joe Westdorp
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Jeff Horstman	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Randy Dozeman	
Georgetown		Roger Dykstra Preston Kallemeyn	
Hillcrest	Cory Nederveld Curt Walters	Rob Nesky	
Immanuel	Jake Porter	Larry DeYoung	
Jamestown	Chris Bouma	Bill Schoonveld	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Brian Mulder	Jared Engelsman
Ridgewood	Michael TenHaken	Deb DeVries	Bart DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Herb Kraker	Kris VanHaitsma
The Refuge	Gerry Koning	Chris Colyn	Craig Ghent
Zutphen	Mark Elffers	Craig Boersen	Jason Horinga

1.6	<p>Other persons attending Classis for some or all of the meeting are:</p> <p><u>Synodical Deputies:</u> Rev. Al Gelder, Grand Rapids East, Rev. Paul Sausser, Grand Rapids South, Rev. Doug Spoelma, Holland</p> <p><u>Vision Team:</u> Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Ass't Treasurer, Rev. Cody Zuiderveen, Campus Ministry at GVSU, Rev. Marc Nelesen, Regional Pastor, Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk, Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, COD rep, Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion, Mrs. Laura Keeley, Thrive Regional Connector, Rev. Zach King, General Secretary CRCNA, Rev. Chris Schoon, Thrive Director, Mr. Brandon Seaver, Hillcrest CRC, Rev. Jason Vermeulen, Evergreen Ministries, Mr. Dan Winiarski, Cottonwood Church, Rev. Gale Tien, Messiah CRC, Rev. Bryson Masiboh, Strong Tower Ministry, Rev. Larry Baar, Fairway CRC (retired pastor), Rev. James Evenhouse, Baldwin Street CRC (retired pastor), Mr. Gene TerHorst, Mrs. Mary TerHorst, Mrs. Barb Heidema</p> <p>A time of devotions is led by the Vice-President. Rev. Jeffery Scripps, the Value steward of our Heathy Leaders value. Rev. Scripps read from Psalm 1 and spoke of how the most important measure of health for a “healthy leader” is the spiritual health we receive from God. Rev. Scripps concludes with prayer.</p>
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Article 2: WE CELEBRATE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR DENOMINATION

2.1	<p>We welcome Rev. Zachary King, General Secretary, CRCNA. Rev. King shares the denominational ministry plan – the CRCNA Journey 2025. Four core milestones were developed through feedback from churches. Rev. King shared a new initiative that was approved by the Council of Delegates called <i>Gather</i>. Five classes at a time will gather to share stories and insights aimed at renewal in the CRCNA. Those interested in attending a <i>Gather</i> event should indicate their interest to the stated clerk. Rev. King thanks our classis for our participation in the shared ministry of the CRCNA. God is doing amazing things in our churches and it is good to share this. The CRC’s global impact and global connection is great.</p>
2.2	<p>Rev. Michael TenHaken offers a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of Rev. Zach King. Rev. King does his job with grace and with truth and we are thankful for his leadership.</p>

Article 3: WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVES

3.1	<p>Council of Delegates (COD) report</p> <p>The COD met on February 14-16, 2024. Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, our COD representative, directed attention to the copy of the COD highlights from the February meeting. Jeanne notes that Classis Georgetown will be part of the GATHER event in Boston in the fall. Jeanne shares a new form that is being used to collect names and information of CRC members who may be interested in serving on a synodical task force or study committee. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p>
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3.2	<p>Regional Pastors Report Rev. David Jolman reports on behalf of himself and Rev. Marc Nelesen who serve as our classis’ regional pastors. They reach out proactively to pastors and churches. A pastor’s lunch is planned for March 20. Rev. Jolman highlights the agreement our Classis has with Pine Rest to provide counseling services to the staff and their families of churches in Classis Georgetown. Several ministry persons and/or family members are using their services. A pastor’s spouse support group meets each month. Rev. Jolman notes that an oversight committee is in place for Rev. Rob Gruessing. The Regional pastors are thanked for their work and ministry.</p>
3.3	<p>Rev. Curt Walters leads in a prayer of thanks and blessing for Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn and the COD; and gives thanks for the care experienced in our classis through the work and ministry of our Regional Pastors.</p>

Article 4: WE WORK TOGETHER	
4.1	<p>Article 17a: Release from Active Ministry of Rev. Jason Vermeulen Executive Session was declared.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the request for an Article 17a release of a mutually agreed separation between Rev. Jason Vermeulen and Evergreen Ministries. This includes the severance package. Motion is supported.</p> <p>Regional Pastor, Rev. Marc Nelesen reviewed the documents explaining the background for the Article 17a separation. He gives a summary of the key issues, emphasizing that both Rev. Vermeulen and Evergreen Ministries have responded to this separation with grace.</p> <p>A vote on the motion is taken. Motion is carried.</p> <p>The Synodical deputies concurred with Classis’ decision.</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis accept the Regional Pastors’ recommendation that an Oversight Committee not be assigned to Rev. Jason Vermeulen or Evergreen Ministries. Motion is supported.</p> <p>A vote on the motion is taken. Motion is carried.</p> <p>The Synodical deputies concurred with Classis’ decision and were thanked for their work.</p> <p>Rev. David Jolman offered a prayer for Rev. Jason Vermuelen and his family and the council, leadership, and congregation of Evergreen Ministries.</p> <p>Rev. Vermeulen’s Ministerial credentials are currently held by the Zeeland Classis of the Reformed Church in America. They will remain there.</p>

4.2	<p>CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, Rev. Jeremy Rhodes reporting Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order. Matters submitted to Classis by way of credentials:</p>
4.2.1	<p><u>From Zutphen CRC (additional comments):</u> <i>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.</i></p>
4.2.2	<p><u>From Forest Grove CRC:</u> In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of classis? <i>We would like Classis Georgetown to look into reviving the practice of church visiting as per article 42 of the Church Order. The 10:24 teams from years ago were supposed to fulfill this role, but those teams are no longer functioning. We recognize that the practice of church visiting has had problems, but we believe that the discipline is a useful one; in the absence of church visiting congregations become more isolated.</i> The chair directed this to the Vision Team to discuss at their next meeting and report back at the May Classis meeting.</p>
4.2.3	<p><u>From Georgetown CRC:</u> What aspect of ministry would you like to discuss at classis <i>Elder Roger Dykstra would like to pursue being a delegate to Synod for Classis Georgetown.</i></p>
4.2.4	<p><u>From Hillcrest CRC:</u> Additional comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Council of Hillcrest CRC recommends Rev. Cory Nederveld as a Minister Delegate to Synod 2024. He has been engaged in the issues that face the CRC, as well as in his ministry through discipling students and young adults struggling with same sex attraction. He has been an asset to our church in helping us navigate issues with truth & grace. Synod has encouraged repeat delegation for the sake of continuity and since Rev. Nederveld served as a delegate in 2022 and has stayed up to date on denominational issues; we would like to see him represent Classis Georgetown.</i> <i>We also would make the following motion to Classis (see agenda for full text of motion and grounds).</i> Motion: For the February 29, 2024 classis meeting (and future meetings) the synodical delegate voting for Classis Georgetown will take the Elder and Deacon nominees as one voting category, as opposed to the previous method which had them voted on separately. The top 2 delegates will then serve in the two slots available to non-minister delegates regardless of the elder or deacon office held on their local Council. The voting process for the 2 minister delegates will remain the same. Motion is seconded. The Chair rules this motion out of order. The chair is challenged and he relinquishes the chair to Vice-Chair, Rev. Jeffery Scripps. Discussion regarding clarity is held. A vote by show of hands to determine if the ruling of the chair stands. The chair's ruling is turned down.

<p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p>Rev. Krikke resumes the role of chair. Discussion on the motion. Prayer is offered before a vote is taken. Motion is voted for by ballot. Ballots are counted. The motion is not carried.</p> <p>Motion from the floor: Motion is made and seconded that the evening agenda be adjusted so that the Overture from Zutphen CRC is presented before voting for delegates to Synod. The Chair rules this motion out of order. The chair is challenged, and he relinquishes the chair to Vice-Chair, Rev. Jeffery Scripps. A vote by show of hands to determine if the ruling of the chair stands. The chair’s ruling stands. Rev. Krikke resumes the role of chair.</p> <p>Delegates/Alternates to Synod 2024 (June 14-21 at Calvin University) Rev. Mark Elffers offers a prayer for the voting process and for those who will be chosen to serve as delegates/alternates at Synod 2024. Results of the Classis voting on those who will represent Classis Georgetown at the June meeting of the Synod of the CRCNA: The following ministers were elected: First Pastor Delegate, Rev. Cory Nederveld Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Sam Krikke First Pastor Alternate, Rev. Mark Elffers Second Pastor Alternate, Rev. Jeremy Rhodes The following elders were elected: Elder Delegate, Mr. Herb Kraker Elder Alternate, Mr. Roger Dykstra The following deacons were elected: Deacon Delegate, Mr. Eli Martiradoni No deacon alternate</p>
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Article 5: DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP	
<p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>Rev. Porter prays for dinner.</p> <p>Delegates and guests enjoy a delicious meal and a wonderful time of fellowship. Volunteers from our host church are thanked for their efficiency and hospitality.</p>

Article 6: WE LEARN TOGETHER: <i>THRIVE</i> PRESENTATION	
6.1	Rev. Chris Schoon, director of Thrive – <i>Equipping and Encouraging Congregations</i> , explained the development of Thrive which was formed by combining nine smaller independent ministries. Thrive is designed to serve local churches and their goal is to help congregations flourish by providing support and resources that can address multiple needs a church may have. All nine ministries have one common mission: to engage and accompany CRC congregations as they seek to embody the gospel faithfully and holistically in their respective contexts. To stay up to date with what is happening at Thrive, Rev. Schoon directs delegates and guests to the webpage: crcna.org/Thrive
6.2	Rev. Nate Meldrim offered a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of Rev. Chris Schoon and Thrive.

Article 7: WE WORK TOGETHER (continued)	
7.1	<p>Zutphen CRC overture: Rev. Mark Elffers presents the overture (see agenda for full text of the overture).</p> <p>Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown overture Synod to require a Letter of Repentance from the Consistory of Eastern Avenue CRC for defying the decisions of Synod 2022 & 2023</p> <p>An adequate time is allowed for discussion on the motion.</p> <p>Rev. Terry Scholten offers a prayer before the vote on the motion.</p> <p>Motion is voted for by ballot. Ballots are counted.</p> <p>Motion is carried to accept this overture.</p>
7.2	<p>Cottonwood Church Overture: Mr. Dan Winiarski presents the overture (see agenda for full text of the overture).</p> <p>Motion is made and supported that Classis Georgetown adopt the overture from Cottonwood Church to establish membership on the Vision Team by rotation among the churches of Classis Georgetown.</p> <p>Motion is discussed.</p> <p>Rev. Jake Porter offers a prayer before the vote on the motion.</p> <p>Motion is voted for by ballot. Ballots are counted.</p> <p>Motion to adopt this overture is defeated.</p>
7.3	<p>Classis action on Church Order Article 24d: The resignation of Mr. Brian Boucek, commissioned pastor at Bauer CRC.</p> <p>Motion is made and supported to declare Mr. Brian Boucek honorably released from the call as a commissioned pastor in accordance with Church Order Article 24d.</p> <p>Motion is carried.</p> <p>Rev. Jake Porter offers a prayer for Brian in his new calling to serve and minister at Alive Ministries.</p>

Article 8: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: MINISTRY REPORTS	
8.1	<p>Treasurer’s Report Our treasurer, Mr. Mel VanderBie, shared a positive and encouraging report regarding the classis’ financial health. We began the year strong and the cash balance remains healthy. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve work of the Treasurer. Mel is thanked for his work on our behalf.</p>
8.2	<p>Vision Team/Stated Clerk Report</p>
8.2.1	<p>Ms. Glenda Tebben reviews the Vision Team section of the report. Each church received a copy of the Vision Team Handbook. The Vision Team will take time to update the handbook. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Mr. Jim Roskam as the Classis Georgetown World Renew representative. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the Vision Team.</p>
8.2.2	<p>The Stated Clerk section of the report is reviewed. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the work of the Stated Clerk. Glenda is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p>

Article 9: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED	
9.1	<p>Rev. Jake Porter led in a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of our Classis leaders and praised God for what was said and done in the evening’s meeting.</p>
9.2	<p>President Krikke declares Classis is adjourned.</p>

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024 – Messiah CRC in Hudsonville (registration begins at 4:15 PM; meeting convenes at 4:30 PM).
 A Classis-Wide Ascension Day service will begin at 7 PM.

Agenda Deadline: April 14, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
 Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk