

# Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

## Session #119

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Meeting at Messiah CRC – 2900 Springdale Street, 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 Welcome and Opening Devotions

The chair, Rev. Sam Krikke calls the meeting to order, welcomes delegates and guests. The Classis Value that we will focus on this evening is Empowering Worship: *We celebrate and are sustained by God's presence as he transforms lives and communities.* Rev. Krikke's devotions focus on the words of Jesus from the end of the book of Matthew: The Great Commission. He notes that all the disciples were empowered by Jesus to go out and change the world. Rev. Krikke concludes with prayer.

#### 1.2 Roll Call

Roll Call of delegates is taken. Five first-time delegates to Classis Georgetown signed the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC.

Church	Pastor	Elder(s)	Deacon
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Jan Palma	
Baldwin Street		Paul Mellema	Duane Vork
Bauer		Shaun Allen	
Cottonwood		Jeff DeKoning Ron Jipping	Rob Veenstra
Evergreen Ministries	No delegates		
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Scott Jongsma	Brandon Vugteveen
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Jeff Horstman	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Randy Dozeman	
Georgetown	Doug Kamstra	Dean DeVries	
Hillcrest	Curt Walters	Mike Hoekstra	
Immanuel		Brian Van Zanten	
Jamestown	Chris Bouma	Hank Bosma	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	John Kuyers	Kyle Knoper
Ridgewood	Michael TenHaken	Deb DeVries	Bart DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Herb Kraker	Kris VanHaitmsa
The Refuge	Gerry Koning Bryson Masiboh	Carol Newman	
Zutphen	Mark Elffers	Mel Kreuze	Joel Guthrey

1.3	<p>Other persons attending Classis for some or all of the meeting are:  <u>Vision Team:</u>  Rev. Marc Nelesen, Regional Pastor, Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk, Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer  <u>Guests:</u>  Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, COD rep, Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion, Rev. Gale Tien, Messiah CRC, Carolyn VanAllen – Calvin University Board</p> <p><b>Credentials Committee; Fairway CRC and Ridgewood CRC</b>  Rev. Jeremy Rhodes of Fairway CRC presents the credentials that were received from sixteen churches. All credentials are in order.  Matters submitted to Classis by way of credentials:  <b><u>From Zutphen CRC (additional comments):</u></b>  <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>
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## Article 2: WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVES

2.1	<p><b>Council of Delegates (COD) Report</b>  The COD met on May 1-3, 2024, in Grand Rapids, MI. She shares that Rev. Scott DeVries, director of synodical services passed away. We are asked to be in prayer for Scott’s family and synodical staff. Rev. Joel Vande Werken is serving as the temporary associate director of synodical services through Aug. 31 to support Synod 2024. Mrs. Kallemeyn shares slides of the CRCNA and its ministries. Classis Georgetown will be part of the GATHER event in Boston in the fall. Anyone who would like to be considered as a representative to GATHER from Classis Georgetown is asked to let the Stated Clerk know. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Classical Ministry Leadership Team Report</b>  Rev. Jeffery Scripps reports on the work of the CMLT. Two new members have joined the team: Rev Gale Tine and Rev. Noelle Jacobs.  <b>MOTION:</b> To postpone the decision on approving financial aid for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$7,527 for Mrs. Juliana Clink and \$500 for Mr. Tyrell Natewa with Classis Red Mesa until the CMLT has time to process new information properly: <b>CARRIED</b>  Rev. Scripps and the CMLT are thanked for their work.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Regional Pastors Report</b>  Rev. Marc Nelesen reports on our Classis’ Regional Pastors who reach out proactively to pastors and churches. Rev. Nelesen thanks Rev. Dave Jolman for his work as a Regional Pastor; Rev. Jolman resigned from this position effective March 31. Rev. Nelesen 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. Rev. Nelesen notes that an oversight committee continues to work with Rev. Rob Gruessing. Rev. Nelesen draws attention to resource guide for training church leaders</p>

<p>2.4</p>	<p>Rev. Stan Drenth, a retired pastor, has been recommended to the denomination (and accepted) to serve as a co-regional pastor. Rev. Nelesen asks for a vote of confidence from the Classis.  <b>MOTION: That Classis Georgetown recognize Rev. Stan Drenth as our co-regional pastor: CARRIED</b>  The Regional pastors are thanked for their work and ministry.</p> <p><b>Calvin University Report</b>  Mrs. Carolyn VanAllen, who represents our Classis on the Calvin Board of Trustees shares a report on Calvin University. It has been a difficult few months following the resignation of Dr. Wiebe Boer. Ms. VanAllen highlighted the increasing number of students choosing Calvin, expansion of facilities and programs, and asks for prayers in the transition process of Calvin leadership as well as for increasing support for our denomination’s university.  Ms. VanAllen is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p> <p>2.5 Rev. Sam Krikke leads in a prayer of blessing for the COD; the decisions of the CMLT and the students we support, gives thanks for the care experienced in our classis through the work and ministry of our Regional Pastors, and lifts up Calvin University and the work of Carolyn.</p>
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**Article 3: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: MINISTRY REPORTS**

<p>3.1</p>	<p><b>Vision Team/Stated Clerk Report</b>  Ms. Glenda Tebben reviews the Vision Team section of the report.  <b>MOTION: To approve the work of the Vision Team: CARRIED</b>  The Stated Clerk section of the report is reviewed.  <b>MOTION: To approve the work of the Stated Clerk: CARRIED</b>  Glenda is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p> <p>3.2 <b>Treasurer’s Report</b>  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.  <b>MOTION: To approve the work of the Treasurer: CARRIED</b>  Mel is thanked for his work on our behalf.</p> <p>3.3 Rev. Jeffery Scripps led in a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of our Classis Leaders.</p>
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**Article 4: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: WE WORK TOGETHER**

<p>4.1</p>	<p><b>Classis Voting for a representative for the Calvin University Board</b>  Delegates vote for one of the following nominees: Ronald E. Baylor, Timothy D. Blackmon, Tyler J. Wagenmaker. Results are forwarded to the denominational office.</p>
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4.2	<p><b>Extension of Ministerial Credentials</b></p> <p>At Classis Georgetown’s July 21, 2022 meeting, Classis approved the mutual Article 17 agreement between Rev. Marc Nelesen and Georgetown CRC. Rev. Nelesen requests that Classis Georgetown extend his ministerial credentials for another year according to Article 17c of the Church Order.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To extend Rev. Marc Nelesen’s for another year according to Article 17c of the Church Order: CARRIED</b></p> <p>Synodical deputies concur: Rev. Al Gelder (Grand Rapids East), Rev. Paul Sausser (Grand Rapids South), Rev. Dave Spoelma (Holland)</p>
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<b>Article 5: ADJOURNMENT, DINNER, AND FELLOWSHIP</b>	
5.1	President Krikke prays for dinner. and praised God for what was said and done in the evening’s meeting.
5.2	President Krikke declares Classis is adjourned.
5.3	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.
5.4	Delegates join with members of the churches of our Classis for an Ascension Day service in the sanctuary of Messiah CRC. The service is led by Rev. Nate Meldrim and members of Messiah CRC.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2024 – The Refuge in Grandville

Agenda Deadline: Monday, September 16, 2024

Credentials Committee: First Hudsonville CRC and Jamestown CRC

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk