

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #120

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Meeting at The Refuge - 60 Port Sheldon St SW, Grandville, MI 49418

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. Jeffery Scripps

Vice-President: Rev. Nate Meldrim

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

Article 1: OPENING OF CLASSIS

1.1	Classis president Rev. Jeffery Scripps called the meeting to order and thanked The Refuge 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 Daring Hospitality: <i>We welcome the stranger in ways that transform lives and communities.</i>
1.3	President Scripps welcomed delegates, staff, and guests.
1.4	A time of devotions is led by President Rev. Jeffery Scripps who reads from Psalm 133, reminding all present of how good it is to dwell in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ. Rev. Scripps concludes with prayer.
1.5	An invitation is extended to Strong Tower Ministries to send delegates to Classis meetings under Church Order, Supplement, Article 40-a, c: <i>If a classis so desires, it may invite councils to delegate up to three officebearers from emerging churches under their care to the meetings of classis.</i> MOTION: To invite Strong Tower Ministries to send delegates to Classis meetings under Church Order, Supplement, Article 40-a, c: CARRIED
1.6	A "Greetings" Video is presented from Rev. Zachary King (General Secretary, CRCNA) and Mr. Dan DeKam (Director, U.S. Ministry Operations).

Article 2: CONSITIUTION OF CLASSIS

2.1 President Scripps declares Classis constituted.

2.2 **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		Paul VanZalen	Bruce Tebben
Baldwin Street		Paul Mellema	Duane Vork
Bauer	Dave TenClay	Don Morren	Charles Kingston
Cottonwood	Matt Palsrok	Ralph DenHartigh	Rob Veenstra
Evergreen Ministries	Brandon Smith		
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Micki Wiersma	
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Jeff Horstman	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Randy Dozeman	
Georgetown	Doug Kamstra	Roger Dykstra	Larry Osterbaan
Hillcrest	Cory Nederveld	Brian Applebach	Jonny Hoekstra
Immanuel	Jake Porter		
Jamestown	Chris Bouma	Ben Harkema	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Ron VanDyke	
Ridgewood		Ronald Blouw Kevin VandeStreek	Bart DeJong
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Larry Meekhof	
Strong Tower Ministry	Bryson Masiboh		
The Refuge	Gerry Koning	Ross Jelsema	Carol Newman
Zutphen		Craig Boersen Kevin Smallegan	Kyle Nagelkirk

Other persons attending Classis for some or all of the meeting are:

Vision Team:

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Ass't Treasurer, Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk, Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer

Guests:

Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion; Rev. Gale Tien, Messiah CRC; Rev. Jerry VanGroningen, Messiah CRC (retired pastor); Mr. James Love (Worship Coordinator, The Refuge); Rev. Scott Stark, Resonate Global Mission; Tara Woodman Bosman, Resonate (missionary to South Africa)

2.3 **Credentials Committee, Rev. Chris Bouma reporting**

Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order.

Matters submitted to Classis by way of credentials:

From Zutphen CRC (additional comments):

Zutphen CRC is grateful for all of the believing women in our classis and their many spiritual gifts. However, in accordance with Church Order Article 40-a Supplement b, we believe that the seating of women delegates at a classis meeting is a violation of the Word of God. We would like to record our protest on the appropriate credentials.

From Evergreen Ministries (additional comments):

As an RCA minister serving a CRC church, I would like clarity on what that might mean for me in the future. It doesn't need to be a full-blown conversation, just something that obviously has personal implications for me. Perhaps more detail during the Synod report could be given?

The chair directed this concern/conversation to the Vision Team.

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

3.1 **Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) Report – Rev. Jeffery Scripps**
 The committee requests permission from Classis to amend their rules and procedures to include greater involvement from the local congregation and council for each new student who applies for a loan.
 No students this year are receiving funds. Rev. Gale Tien, a member of the CMLT, presents a proposal for encouraging young people from our classis to become involved in ministry. In the Spring of 2025, they will host an event in which they invite young people to hear and learn about the wonderful calling of being a pastor.

3.2 **Regional Pastors Report**
 The written report is received for information. Our regional pastors, Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Stan Drenth are thanked for their work.
Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative:
 So that he can present the initiative, Rev. Scripps relinquished the chair at this point and Vice-Chair Meldrim assumes the chair.
 The initiative includes four recommendations.
 Recommendation #1 – That Classis Georgetown financially supports up to 75% of the costs of an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program for Classis Georgetown pastors.
MOTION: To approve this recommendation: CARRIED
 Recommendation #2 – That Classis Georgetown encourage ongoing growth by financially supporting pastors pursuing conferences, seminars, or coaching and do so annually by providing up to \$2,500 in matching funds after a congregation’s \$2,500 annual investment in their pastor’s ongoing growth.
MOTION: To table this recommendation: CARRIED
 Recommendation #3 – That Classis Georgetown supports sabbatical funding for learning and growing opportunities up to \$2,500 after a congregation has invested \$3,500 toward its pastor’s sabbatical.
MOTION: To table this recommendation: CARRIED
 The Vision Team, along with the Classis Treasurer, will bring a revised version of Recommendations 2 and 3 to the February Classis Meeting.
 Recommendation #4 – To encourage pastors in their pursuit of physical health. Pastors are asked to contact Rev. Scripps if interested in joining a fitness group. Rev. Scripps resumes the chair.

3.3 **Youth Champion Report: Mr. Fig VanderMolen**
 Fig shares with delegates that joy he experiences in being involved in youth ministry in Classis Georgetown. Youth Pastors and Leaders are working together with youth on projects and joint ministry. They gather regularly for prayer and support.
 Fig leads in prayer for our youth in the 18 congregations in Classis Georgetown.
 Fig is thanked for his work as our Youth Champion.

3.4	<p>Prayer Catalyzer report: Rev. Jake Porter Rev. Porter is organizing a Classis-Wide time of prayer a week or so before each Classis meeting to remind us of what God is doing in our Classis and to listen to where God is leading us. Churches are asked to send Rev. Porter a day/time when it works to get together for this time of prayer. Rev. Porter is thanked for his work as our prayer catalyst.</p>
3.5	<p>Synod 2024 report: Rev. Cory Nederveld Rev. Nederveld reviewed the written report and gave a summary of Synod’s discussions and decisions. The chair thanks those who served as delegates: Rev. Sam Krikke, Rev. Cory Nederveld, Mr. Herb Kraker, Mr. Roger Dykstra</p>
3.6	<p>CRCNA Gather Boston report: Ms. Glenda Tebben Five classes were invited to join this event, held in Boston from October 7-9. It was an amazing experience for all who attended.</p>
3.7	<p>Rev. Jake Porter offers a prayer for the work and ministry of our representatives, giving thanks for how we work together and asking for discernment in where God is leading us as we serve Him together.</p>

Article 4: WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

4.1	<p>A time of worship is led by Mr. James Love, worship coordinator at The Refuge</p>
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Article 5: DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP

5.1	<p>Rev. Koning prays for dinner.</p>
5.2	<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 CELEBRATE OUR CLASSIS VALUE OF DARING HOSPITALITY

6.1	<p>We welcome Rev. Scott Stark from Resonate Global Mission. Rev. Stark serves as the Regional Mission Leader - Great Lakes region The purpose of Resonate is to embrace the promise and commission of Jesus from Acts 1:8. Rev. Stark shares the incredible ways that God is at work through the ministry of the CRCNA. He highlights the work of Resonate Global Mission in the Great Lakes Region (73 missionaries are sent, 10 active church plants, 3-5 new church plants, 6 campus ministries, 240 established congregations of which 64 report growth through evangelism). Rev. Stark challenges those in attendance to share the gospel. This starts with building relationships with your neighbors. Rev. Stark highlights “conversation</p>
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<p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p>	<p>starters” that can be used. One can deepen the conversation with a witness course and widen the conversation with witness trips. Global Coffee Break is a wonderful tool that can be used to discover God’s story. Through study materials from Coffee Break people are consistently coming to Christ.</p> <p>Rev. Gerry Koning, the Steward of our Classis Value of Daring Hospitality brings this challenge of sharing the gospel to the level of our classis: <i>We welcome the stranger in ways that transform lives and communities.</i></p> <p>Hospitality is not like it used to be. The early church practiced hospitality beautifully in their homes but it soon became institutionalized.</p> <p>We are challenged to interface between the kingdom of dark and light. Rather than spend our time isolating ourselves from our communities, we must take ahold of Christ’s word and be with people who don’t know Christ.</p> <p>Where is your church working at the interface? We must pray for the courage to be hospitable, so that others can find Jesus through us.</p> <p>Rev. Stark and Rev. Koning are thanked for the challenge(s) they presented to us.</p>
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Article 7: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: MINISTRY REPORTS

<p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p>	<p>Vision Team Report Ms. Glenda Tebben reviews the Vision Team report. Rev. Gerry Koning presents the revised Classis Georgetown Handbook MOTION: To approve Rev. Jeremy Rhodes and Rev. Curt Walters as members of the Vision Team: CARRIED MOTION: To approve the revised handbook. Discussion on the motion. MOTION IS CARRIED MOTION: To approve the work of the Vision Team: CARRIED</p> <p>Stated Clerk report Ms. Glenda Tebben elaborated on several items on the written report. MOTION: To approve the early retirement of Rev. Leonard Kuyvenhoven under CRCNA Church Order, Supplement 18, Early Retirement Option: CARRIED MOTION: To approve the work of the Stated Clerk: CARRIED Glenda is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p> <p>Treasurer’s Report/Classis Georgetown 2025 Budget presentation, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting A review of 2023 books was completed. Mel thanks Kathy Jelsema for her work in entering data into QuickBooks. Mr. VanderBie reviews the financials. We will end the 2024 fiscal year in with excess funds. We thank God for the faithfulness of the churches in our classis.</p>
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	<p>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, 2024.</p> <p>Mr. VanderBie gives an overview of the proposed 2025 budget.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the 2025 budget and the work of the Treasurer: CARRIED</p> <p>Mel is thanked for his work on our behalf.</p>
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Article 8: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED	
8.1	Rev. Jeffery Scripps leads in a prayer of thanks for what was said and done in the evening’s meeting and gives the benediction.
8.2	President Scripps declares Classis is adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 20, 2025, held at (host church still needed)

Agenda Deadline: January 13, 2025

Credentials Committee: Immanuel CRC and Searchlight Ministries

Following meeting, Thursday, May 15, 2025, host church needed

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk