

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #123

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Meeting at Forest Grove CRC, 3515 Perry 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.

Our Values

Healthy Leaders

We equip leaders to transform lives and communities.

Collaborative Relationships

We call out the strengths of each church and pursue ministry together to create new ways of transforming lives and communities.

Empowering Worship

We celebrate and are sustained by God's presence as he transforms lives and communities.

Daring Hospitality

We welcome the stranger in ways that transform lives and communities.

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

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Curt Walters

Vice-President: Rev. Sam Krikke

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

Article 1: OPENING OF CLASSIS

1.1	Classis president Rev. Curt Walters called the meeting to order. He introduces himself and welcomes delegates, staff, and guests.
1.2	Rev. Walters gives a brief overview of the agenda. We will focus on the Classis Value of Collaborative Relationships: <i>We call out the strengths of each church and pursue ministry together to create new ways of transforming lives and communities.</i>
1.3	Rev. Jeffery Scripps, pastor of our host church, welcomes all to Forest Grove CRC. It is good for our souls to join in worship and sing and Rev. Scripps leads in a time of devotions. We sing two hymns, <i>Christ Our Hope</i> and <i>Amazing Grace</i> , and Rev. Scripps shares thoughts on the words of Hebrews 10:19-25 - as churches and as a classis we must not lose sight of Christ, only what he builds will endure. Rev. Scripps leads in prayer.
1.4	A "Greetings" Video is presented from Rev. Zachary King (General Secretary, CRCNA) in which Rev. King shares a brief reflection for classis leaders.

Article 2: CONSITIUTION OF CLASSIS

2.1 President Walters declares Classis constituted.

2.2 **Roll Call** of delegates is taken. All delegates to Classis Georgetown signed the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC as they registered.

Church	Pastor	Elder(s)	Deacon(s)
Alive Ministries	Terry Scholten	Lynn Zwart	Randy Warners
Baldwin Street		Don Hamilton Paul Mellema	
Bauer	David TenClay	Kelly Ten Harmsel	Brian Lubbers
Cottonwood	Matthew Wright	Keith Mulder	Nick Gast
Evergreen Ministries		Matt Van Woerkom	Tim VanderLugt
Fairway		John Wilks	Ben Duimstra
First Hudsonville		Bill Brouwer Jeff Horstman	John Bosscher
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Ron Koedam	Randy Dozeman
Georgetown	Doug Kamstra	Jeanne Kallelmeyn	Dave VanderWaal
Hillcrest	Curt Walters	Brandon Seaver	Corey Smith
Immanuel		Aaron Eggebeen	Nelson Vandermeer
Jamestown		Dave Brinks	Gary Dykstra
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Phil Tanis	Ben Soodsma
Ridgewood	Michael TenHaken	Kevin VandeStreek	Jim DeYoung
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Herb Kraker	
Strong Tower Ministry	Bryson Masiboh		
The Refuge	Derek Noorman	Kevin Kiekober	Laura Posthumus
Zutphen	Marc Elffers	Kevin Smallegan	Derek Walters

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. Scott Stark, Resonate Global Mission; Mr. Sam Kuipers, Intern at Georgetown CRC; members of Forest Grove CRC

2.3 **Credentials Committee - Bauer CRC and Forest Grove CRC, Rev. David TenClay 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 Strong Tower Ministries (In what aspect of your ministry would you like the assistance of classis?):

Strong Tower Ministry offers an "after-school program" for both high schoolers and elementary kids. We are seeking volunteers to assist these young people with their homework every other Wednesday from 6 PM to 8 PM.

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

3.1 **Council of Delegates (COD) report: Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn**
 The COD met October 8-10. Jeanne shares some meeting highlights.
 The majority of emerging churches in the CRCNA represent ethnicities that are non-Anglo.
 Rev. Kurt Selles, director of ReFrame Ministries, is planning to retire.
 World Renew has never received Ministry Shares and congregations are urged to receive four offerings a year for this ministry.
 There is a search process underway for an interim editor of The Banner. We are encouraged to send a note of thanks to current Banner staff.
 Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.

3.2 **Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) report: Rev. Jeffery Scripps**
 The committee’s task is two-fold: to receive, review, and present requests for Student Aid for those studying to become pastors, and to help pastors transfer into the CRCNA from other denominations.
 Rev. Scripps notes that one student, Mr. Samuel Kuipers, is receiving aid this year. He attends Calvin Theological Seminary. We are thankful that Sam is a guest at the meeting.
 Rev. Derek Noorman and Rev. Shawn Gerbers are both ordained in the RCA. Classis must approve learning plans they are to follow as they seek to become ordained ministers in the CRC. When the plans are completed, the Candidacy Committee of the CRC will allow Classis to plan for a Colloquium Doctum for both of them.
MOTION: That Classis Georgetown approve the learning plan for Rev. Shawn Gerbers. CARRIED
MOTION: That Classis Georgetown approve the learning plan for Rev. Derek Noorman. CARRIED
 One correction is noted in the Rev. Noorman’s learning plan: He served East Martin CRC, not Grant CRC.
 Rev. Scripps and the CMLT are thanked for their work.

3.3 **Regional Pastors report: Rev. Stan Drenth and Rev. Marc Nelesen**
 The written report is received for information.
 Rev. Marc Nelesen is thanked for his work as a Regional Pastor. He will complete his time of service at the end of 2025.
 Delegates are asked to take note of the Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative application. This had been approved by Classis and the paperwork is now available. As a classis we want to encourage our pastors to grow and learn.

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>Youth Champion report: Mr. Fig VanderMolen Fig shares with delegates that joy he experiences in being involved in youth ministry in Classis Georgetown. Many young adults are attending church. Fig encourages us to greet them! There is increasing collaboration among churches in our classis as they work together in joint ministry. Youth Pastors and Leaders gather regularly for prayer and support. Fig is thanked for his work as our Youth Champion.</p> <p>Synod 2025 report: Elder Brandon Seaver Mr. Seaver reviewed the written report and highlighted some of Synod’s discussions and decisions. It was good to read the reflections from each of the delegates: Rev. Marc Elffers, Rev. Jeffery Scripps, Mr. Herb Kraker, Mr. Brandon Seaver</p> <p>THRIVE report: Ms. Idella Winfield Ms. Winfield was not able to attend the meeting. Attention is given to the THRIVE playlist in the meeting packet.</p> <p>Resonate Global Mission report: Rev. Scott Stark, Regional Mission Leader - Great Lakes region Rev. Stark highlights the importance of church planting for the future of the CRCNA. So many lives are changed because of church planting. He asks for prayers the week of November 9-16 when a Church Planting Vision Conference will be held in Florida.</p> <p>Rev. Matthew Wright offers a prayer for the work and ministry of our representatives, giving thanks for those who work on behalf of our churches, our classis, and our denomination and for the opportunities for growth and learning that were presented to us</p>
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<p>Article 4: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS LEADERS</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Vision Team Report: Rev. Sam Krikke Rev. Sam Krikke reviews the Vision Team report.</p> <p>i. Co-Regional Pastor Rev. Gerry Koning, a retired pastor, has been recommended to the denomination (and accepted) to serve as a co-regional pastor. The Vision Team asks for a vote of confidence from the Classis.</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis recognize Rev. Gerry Koning as our co-regional pastor. Motion is challenged. An alternative motion is presented by Rev. Marc Elffers: MOTION: That Classis vote on two names for co-regional pastor; Rev. Gerry Koning and Rev. Matt Palsrok. CARRIED</p>

	<p>Rev. Palsrok has been recommended to the denomination to serve in this role and this recommendation was accepted.</p> <p>The chair, President Walters, rules that classis will vote by ballot. Delegates will indicate by name (Rev. Koning or Rev. Palsrok) whom they would like to serve as Regional Pastor.</p> <p>Rev. Koning is chosen by a majority vote.</p> <p>ii. Church Visitor Teams The Vision Team asks for Classis approval of the two teams of Church Visitors. MOTION: That Classis approve the two teams of church visitors: Rev. Jeremy Rhodes & Rev. Curt Walters (Team #1); Rev. Ron Bouwkamp and Rev. Jeffery Scripps (Team #2). Each would serve three-year renewable terms. CARRIED</p> <p>The visiting teams will contact the churches to set up a visit. If a church would like a visit before contact is made, please contact one of the team members.</p> <p>iii. MOTION: To approve the work of the Vision Team: CARRIED</p>
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Article 5: DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP	
5.1	Rev. Sam Krikke prays for dinner. He draws attention to the “Table Talk” questions on the tables; inviting delegates to share joys and challenges in their churches and to ask the question, “How can we work together?”
5.2	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.

Article 6: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS LEADERS (continued)	
6.1	<p>Stated Clerk report</p> <p>Ms. Glenda Tebben elaborated on several items on the written report:</p> <p>The Classis Handbook (approved October 2024) will be made available on the Classis website. Information regarding service opportunities in the classis and denomination is in the handbook.</p> <p>We continue to seek persons to serve as the Safe Church Coordinator and the Regional Disability Advocate for our classis.</p> <p>Rev. Bryson Masiboh, Rev. Derek Noorman, Rev. Terry Scholten, Rev. Michael TenHaken will attend the Church Planting Vision Conference in Port St. Lucie, FL, in November.</p> <p>Two new Synodical Deputies are needed as Rev. Jeffery Scripps and Rev. Curt Walters are completing their terms.</p> <p>Classis Churches/Minister Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Noelle Jacobs was installed as Pastor of Discipleship at Alive Ministries on Sunday, September 21.

<p>6.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baldwin Street CRC is looking for a lead pastor. Rev. Dave Jolman serves as their church counselor. • Georgetown CRC’s Search Committee continues to meet. Rev. Doug Kamstra is their STM; also serving as church counselor. • Rev. Neil Jasperse began serving as the STM at Immanuel CRC on Sunday, September 21. <p>MOTION: To approve the work of the Stated Clerk: CARRIED</p> <p>Glenda is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p> <p>Treasurer’s Report/Classis Georgetown 2026 Budget presentation, Mr. Mel VanderBie reporting</p> <p>Mr. VanderBie reviews the financials. We will end the 2025 fiscal year in with excess funds. We thank God for the faithfulness of the churches in our classis. Our Classis is blessed with healthy finances. We pray for wisdom in using these funds.</p> <p>Forms have been distributed to the churches requiring membership count and a request for ministry share pledges. Churches are asked to provide this information to the treasurer by November 30, 2025.</p> <p>Mr. VanderBie gives an overview of the proposed 2026 budget.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the 2026 budget and the work of the Treasurer: CARRIED</p> <p>Mel is thanked for his work on our behalf.</p>
<p>6.3</p>	<p>Rev. Nate Meldrim led in a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of our Classis leaders, praising God for ways in which the churches of our Classis work together.</p>

Article 7: CLASSIS WORK: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF REPORT FROM THE COD	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>Mrs. Jeanne Kallelmeyn, our COD representative and Rev. Michael TenHaken, chair of the COD lead delegates in a review and discussion of the draft report and its recommendation from the COD task force to <i>Reduce Governance Costs, Fund Synod, and Use Time More Wisely</i>.</p> <p>The COD formed a taskforce as a response to a need the denomination has. The taskforce presented their report in September 2025 and the report was distributed to each classis for review at their fall meeting. The report recommends to Synod 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that beginning in 2027, synod meet every other year • that synod establishes a taskforce to review classis structure and make recommendations for classis consolidations <p>The report is discussed. Jeanne and Michael are thanked for leading the discussion.</p>
<p>7.2</p>	<p>If a church would like to respond to the report with an overture or communication, these must be received by the Stated Clerk by January 12, 2025 for inclusion in the February Classis meeting agenda.</p>

Article 8: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED	
8.1	President Walters thanks Forest Grove CRC for serving as hosts.
8.2	President Walters leads in a prayer of thanks for what was said and done in the evening's meeting and gives the benediction.
8.3	President Walters declares Classis is adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2026, held at (host church still needed)

Agenda Deadline: January 12, 2026

Credentials Committee: Immanuel CRC and Searchlight Ministries

Following meeting, Thursday, May 14, 2026, host church needed

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk