

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #124

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Meeting at Bauer CRC, 4958 Bauer Road, 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

Article 1: OPENING OF CLASSIS

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| 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 <i>Healthy Leaders: We equip leaders to transform lives and communities.</i> |
| 1.3 | <p>Rev. David TenClay, pastor of our host church, welcomes all to Bauer CRC. He reads from 2 Timothy 2:1-10. Here, Paul shares four thoughts that pertain to Healthy Leaders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be strong in grace that is in Christ Jesus – our strength is not in ourselves 2. Entrust the Lord's teaching to reliable men who are qualified to teach others 3. Ministry can be hard so make it a collective issue, don't minister in isolation. 4. Keep the main thing, the main thing. Remember Jesus Christ – His Word does not change, and the world is in desperate need of good news. <p>Rev. TenClay shares an opening prayer of blessing for the meeting.</p> |

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	John VanKoevering	Randy Warners
Baldwin Street		Don Hamilton Paul Mellema	
Bauer	David TenClay	Jeff Leegwater	Steve Westveld
Cottonwood	Matthew Wright	Ron Jipping	Matt Kellar
Evergreen Ministries		Cal Essenburg	
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Cal Vis	Arie Ruiters
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Jeff Horstman	John Bosscher
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Rick VanDis	Randy Dozeman
Georgetown	Doug Kamstra	Jeanne Kallelmeyn	
Hillcrest	Curt Walters	Brandon Seaver	Mason Witte
Immanuel	Neil Jasperse	Aaron Eggebeen	Nelson Vandermeer
Jamestown	Chris Bouma	Ivan Kuipers	
Messiah	Nate Meldrim	Jack Engelsman	
Ridgewood	Michael TenHaken	Russell Alderink	Laurie VanderBroek
Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Ryan Scholma	Jan VanDrie
Strong Tower Ministry	Bryson Masiboh	Dan Kioko	Cloude Ngomo
The Refuge	Derek Noorman	Ross Jelsema	Carol Newman
Zutphen	Mark Elffers	Bill Rietman	Derek Walters

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

Vision Team:

Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Ass't Treasurer/Webkeeper; Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk; Rev. Cory Nederveld, Hillcrest CRC; Rev. Gerry Koning, Regional Pastor

Guests:

Rev. Shawn Gerbers, Bauer CRC; Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion; Rev. Gale Tien, Messiah CRC; Rev. Tom Walcott, Evergreen Ministries; Mr. Ray VanDam, Baldwin Street CRC; Mr. Sam Kuipers, Intern at Georgetown CRC; Dr. Tim Howerzyl, Bauer CRC; members of Bauer CRC; members of The Refuge

Synodical Deputies:

Rev. Gary Bekker (Classis Grand Rapids South), Rev. Terry Slachter (Classis Zeeland), Rev. Steve VanZanen (Classis Thornapple Valley)

2.3 **Credentials Committee – Cottonwood and Searchlight Ministries, Rev. Matthew Wright 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.

Article 3: C WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVES	
3.1	<p>Council of Delegates (COD) report: Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn The COD met February 3-4. Jeanne shares some meeting highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy for church renewal that Thrive is using encourages churches to start with participating in the <i>Thriving Essentials</i> course, focused on mission, discipleship, discernment and leadership. From there, unique next steps will be identified. This strategy will go to Synod 2026 for endorsement. • The COD recommends that synod approve a change in meeting schedule for future synods from a Thursday to Thursday schedule, to a Saturday to Saturday one. This would allow for the best use of time. <p>Jeanne thanks Classis for the privilege of serving. She has one more year to serve and invites interested persons to speak with her about serving on the COD. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p>
3.2	<p>Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) report: Rev. Jeffery Scripps The CMLT will be sending announcements to the churches regarding student aid. If anyone has the name(s) of young people who they believe would be excellent pastors, please forward them to the CMLT.</p>
3.3	<p>Regional Pastors report: Rev. Gerry Koning Rev. Koning reports on our Classis’ Regional Pastors who reach out proactively to pastors and churches. Rev. Koning 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. Our regional pastors are thanked for their work.</p>
3.4	<p>Church Visitors report: Rev. Curt Walters Our classis has recently reintroduced church visiting and the two teams are beginning to schedule meetings with church councils.</p>
3.5	<p>Youth Champion report: Mr. Fig VanderMolen Fig shares a resource for how to pray for students and reminds delegates to pray (often) for the students in our churches. Fig is thanked for his work as our Youth Champion.</p>
3.6	<p>Resonate Global Mission: Rev. Steve VanZanen, Europe Regional Mission Leader. Rev. VanZanen shares a Powerpoint of the missionaries who are supported by the churches in our classis. He also highlights the Cohort program in which young people are immersed in a new culture by serving with local mission organizations.</p>
3.7	<p>Rev. Michael TenHaken 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.</p>

Article 4: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS LEADERS	
4.1	<p>Vision Team Report Rev. Jeffery Scripps reviews the Vision Team report. MOTION: That Classis Georgetown recognize Rev. Cory Nederveld and Rev. Matthew Wright as members of the Classis Vision Team. MOTION SUPPORTED MOTION CARRIED</p>
4.2	<p>Stated Clerk report Ms. Glenda Tebben elaborated on several items on the written report. Classis Churches/Minister Updates:</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 is serving as the STM at Immanuel CRC. <p>Glenda is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p>
4.3	<p>Treasurer’s Report Our treasurer, Mr. Mel VanderBie, was not present at the meeting. Ms. Kathy Jelsema, assistant treasurer, reviews the final financial report for 2025. We ended 2025 fiscal year in with excess funds. We thank God for the faithfulness of the churches in our classis. Kathy is thanked for her work on our behalf.</p>
4.4	<p>Rev. Terry Scholten leads 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. Pastor Scholten prays especially for our treasurer, Mel, in his ongoing battle with cancer.</p>

Article 5: CLASSIS WORK:	
5.1	<p>Synodical Deputy nominations Rev. Jeffery Scripps and Rev. Curt Walters will complete their term(s) as Synodical Deputies at the end of June. MOTION: That Classis Georgetown nominate Rev. Doug Kamstra and Rev. Jeremy Rhodes to serve as synodical deputies. MOTION SUPPORTED MOTION CARRIED</p>

<p>5.2</p> <p>5.2.i</p>	<p>Overtures to Synod 2026</p> <p>Bauer CRC overture: Rev. Dave TenClay presents the overture (see supporting documents from the meeting agenda for full text of the overture).</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis Georgetown overture Synod to:</p> <p>A. Provide detailed current and proposed budget line items in the yearly agenda for Synod (not the supplement). This information will include the compensation numbers for each full-time employee position; additionally, detailed financial reports and budgets will be made available to any church council that requests them starting with the 2026-27 fiscal year provide financial transparency and clarity for ministry share funding priorities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>B. Starting in fiscal year 2027-28, 50% of ministry share funding will be devoted to missions. ReFrame Ministries will receive 15% and Resonate will receive 35% of all ministry share gifts. The remaining 50% of ministry share funding will be allocated by denominational staff and the COD to the other areas as deemed fit. We ask the CRCNA to honor the intent of these percentages, in both spirit and practice, by ensuring that budgeting, cost-sharing, and administrative decisions do not reduce the practical amount that reaches mission work in any way.</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED</p> <p>Discussion on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION FROM THE FLOOR: To split the overture into two separate overtures (A and B).</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Discussion on the motion.</p> <p>A voice vote is taken on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION DEFEATED.</p> <p>Discussion continues on original motion.</p> <p>ORIGINAL MOTION IS VOTED FOR BY BALLOT. Ballots are counted.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED.</p>
<p>5.2.ii</p>	<p>Forest Grove CRC overture: Rev. Jeffery Scripps presents the overture (see supporting documents from the meeting agenda for full text of the overture).</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis Georgetown overture Synod to reject the COD proposal that Synod meet biennially.</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED.</p> <p>An adequate time is allowed for discussion on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION IS VOTED FOR BY BALLOT. Ballots are counted.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED.</p>

Article 6: DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP

6.1	Rev. Curt Walters prays for dinner. 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.
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Article 7: CLASSIS WORK (continued):

7.1	Overtures to Synod 2026 (continued)
7.1.i	<p>Hillcrest CRC overture: Elder Brandon Seaver presents the overture (see supporting documents from the meeting agenda for full text of the overture).</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis Georgetown overture Synod to amend the Covenant for Officebearers to remove the mention of Our World Belongs to God, thereby removing contemporary testimonies from the covenant altogether, AND to affirm that the Covenant for Officebearers shall reference only the Creeds and Confessions (Three Forms of Unity) as doctrinal standard for subscription, and the contemporary testimonies, statements, or contextual documents shall not be added to the CfO in the future.</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Time is allowed for discussion on the motion.</p> <p>A voice vote is taken on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED.</p>
7.1.ii	<p>Zutphen CRC overture: Rev. Mark Elffers presents the overture (see supporting documents from the meeting agenda for full text of the overture).</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis Georgetown overture Synod to instruct the Calvin Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to identify a presidential candidate who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Will focus the seminary’s attention on training and equipping students to become pastors in local churches. B. Will be a leading voice in publicly vindicating sound doctrine against heresies and errors. C. Is an ordained and experienced Minister of the Word with a well-known reputation for faithfully expounding the Word of God. D. Has a well-known reputation for godliness. E. Wholeheartedly affirms the authority, sufficiency, inerrancy, and clarity of the Word of God without compromise in accordance with Belgic Confession Articles 5-7 and Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 21. <p>MOTION SUPPORTED.</p> <p>An adequate time is allowed for discussion on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION IS VOTED FOR BY BALLOT. Ballots are counted.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED.</p>

<p>7.2</p>	<p>Delegates/Alternates to Synod 2026 (June 12-18 at Calvin University)</p> <p>Results of the Classis voting on those who will represent Classis Georgetown at the June meeting of the Synod of the CRCNA:</p> <p>The following ministers were elected:</p> <p> First Pastor Delegate, Rev. Dave TenClay Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Mark Elffers First Pastor Alternate, Rev. Nate Meldrim Second Pastor Alternate, Rev. Derek Noorman</p> <p>The following elder was elected:</p> <p> Elder Delegate, Mr. Brandon Seavers</p> <p>The following deacon was elected:</p> <p> Deacon Delegate, Mr. Mason Witte</p>
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Extension of Ministerial Credentials</p> <p>At Classis Georgetown’s January 17, 2024 meeting, Classis approved the mutual Article 17 agreement between Rev. Rob Gruessing and Bauer CRC. Rev. Gruessing requests that Classis Georgetown extend his ministerial credentials for another year according to Article 17c of the Church Order.</p> <p>MOTION: To extend Rev. Rob Gruessing’s credentials for another year according to Article 17c of the Church Order:</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Executive Session is declared.</p> <p>Motion is discussed</p> <p>A voice vote is taken on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p> <p>Synodical deputies concur: Rev. Gary Bekker (Classis Grand Rapids South), Rev. Terry Slachter (Classis Zeeland), Rev. Steve VanZanen (Classis Thornapple Valley)</p> <p>Executive Session ends.</p>
<p>7.4</p>	<p>Communication from Immanuel CRC</p> <p>Rev. Neil Jasperse, STM at Immanuel, shares a report on how things are going at Immanuel. The church is ready to form a Search Team for a new pastor; he will serve as an advisor on this team. Immanuel covets our prayers as they seek to move forward in Jesus’ name. Rev. Nate Meldrim offers a prayer for Immanuel.</p> <p>Rev. Jasperse is thanked for the report and for his ministry at Immanuel.</p> <p>MOTION: That Classis Georgetown acquiesces to Immanuel CRC’s request to form a Search Team.</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED</p> <p>A voice vote is taken on the motion.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>

Article 8: COLLOQUIA DOCTA for REV. SHAWN GERBERS and REV. DEREK NOORMAN	
8.1	<p>Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Gerry Koning introduces Rev. Derek Noorman. The Refuge looks forward to having Derek minister for and with them for many years. • Elder Jeff Leegwater introduces Rev. Shawn Gerbers. Bauer CRC is so thankful that God has called Shawn to continue leading and ministering as a CRC pastor. Both Derek and Shawn have served in the RCA/CRCNA for many years.
8.2	Rev. Jeffery Scripps leads a prayer for guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the interview.
8.3	We hear from Rev. Shawn Gerbers and Rev. Derek Noorman: Rev. David Jolman leads the interview process in which he invites Shawn and Derek to share about their doctrine and life. This is followed by questions from Classis delegates and Synodical Deputies.
8.4	<p>MOTION: To accept Rev. Shawn Gerbers into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED</p> <p>MOTION: To accept Rev. Derek Noorman into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.</p> <p>MOTION SUPPORTED</p> <p>Executive session is declared (visitors are excused). Discussion on the motions. The Synodical Deputies are excused to conduct their deliberations.</p> <p>MOTIONS ARE VOTED FOR BY BALLOT. Ballots are counted.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED to accept Rev. Shawn Gerbers into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED to accept Rev. Derek Noorman into the ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the Christian Reformed Church.</p> <p>The Synodical Deputies give their concurrence to classis’ decision: Rev. Gary Bekker (Classis Grand Rapids South), Rev. Terry Slachter (Classis Zeeland), Rev. Steve VanZanen (Classis Thornapple Valley)</p> <p>Executive session ends</p>
8.5	Rev. Gerbers and Rev. Noorman are invited forward to receive the good news, and the delegates gathered around for a prayer of thanksgiving.
8.6	The ordination service for Shawn will be held on March 15, 2026 at Bauer CRC. The ordination service for Derek will be held on March 8, 2026 at The Refuge.

Article 9: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED	
9.1	Rev. Curt Walters leads in a prayer of thanks for what was said and done in the evening’s meeting and gives the benediction.
9.2	President Walters declares Classis is adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026, held at (host church still needed)

Agenda Deadline: April 20, 2026

Credentials Committee: Alive Ministries and Georgetown CRC

Following meeting, Thursday, October 16, 2026, host church needed

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk for Classis Georgetown