

# Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Stated Session  
Central Reformed Church  
January 17, 2017

## Opening: Devotion led by

Rev. Katie Baker and Rev. Case Van Kempen

Business Meeting Called to Order by Jennifer Petersen, President at 7:15 PM.

## Roll Call (completed by signature)

A – Excused Absence    U – Unexcused Absence

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Aberdeen Reformed	Ryan Landt	Gwen Riordan	
Casnovia	Vacant	Jason Vermeulen	Joan Moore
Central Reformed	Vacant	Helen Phillips	Jeff DeVree
	Katie Baker	Marla Lunderburg	
Church of the Master	David Mayer	Deb Schmidt	
The Community - Ada	William Norden	Bob Engelsman	
	Mara Joy Norden		
Fourth Reformed	Eric Schalk (A)	(U)	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman	Cathy Millard	
Oakview Community Church	Gerald Vander Velde (MUC)	Roger Scheele	
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel	Michael Bart	William Hahn
	Kathy Bartels (MUC)		
	Laura Claus (A)		
Remembrance Reformed	Eric Cook	Ed DeGroot	Pam Kragt
	Todd Schmidt	John Jacobitz	
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel (A)	Bruce Holleboom (A)	
	Kristi Kiel		
Richmond Reformed	Christopher Westerbeek	Ray Van Portfliet	
Rockford Reformed	Paul Bradford	Craig Vander Heide	
Servant's Community	Vacant	Kurt Reppart (A)	Cindy Bennett
Standale	Jessica Shults	Lin Cline	
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen	Ron Schollaart	Tammy Schollaart
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	Kerri Vryhof	
	Sarah Bruins		
<b>Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive</b>			
Lee Ausema	Nancy Boote (A)	Eric Branch (U)	Nancy Claus
Susan Cleveland	John Delger	Marcia Elders (A)	Lisa Henderson (U)
Sarah Juist	Kate Kooyman (A)	Steve Luchies	Diane Maodush-Pitzer (A)
Tim Meendering	Cheryl Molhoek	Adam Navis	Robyn Saylor (U)
Steve Wolters (A)	David Veldt (A)		
Rachel Bush (U)	Brad Olson (U)	Jennifer Petersen	Dan Plasman (A)
Jonathan Tice (U)	Susan VanderWall (U)	Bill VanderWerp (A)	Aaron Wetzel
Andre Daley (U)			
<b>Retired Ministers</b>			
Bill Fennema (A)	Ralph Robrahn	Don Veltman (A)	

<b>Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor</b>			
Willa Brown (U)	George VanderHyde (U)		
Joel Bengelink (A)	Mike Gafa	George Werkema (A)	
<b>Guests</b>			
Jim Noordyke	Trey Tirpak	Case Van Kempen	

## **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion made, supported, and approved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2017 meeting.

## **Appoint Tellers**

Tellers were appointed from Oakview, Orchard Hill, and Remembrance..

## **Committee and Council Reports**

### **Executive Committee**

1. Clancy Street Ministries and Fellowship Update – Bob Engelsman, President of the Clancy Street Ministries Transition Board Directors (new). In conversations with Remembrance to become the sponsoring church. Worked through the details of the transition and hope to have a firm plan announced at the September 2017 meeting.
2. Harbor Church Plant – introduction and summary of actions from guests Tom Elenbaas, Aaron Lewis and Jen Petersen.

Jen introduced Tom Elenbaas and Aaron Lewis to talk about the Harbor Church plant in NW Grand Rapids. Wasn't any strategic decision to plant a church in Walker; members of the community brought the idea to Harbor Church. Felt that God called a leader to begin a start in Walker. Aaron described his call to church planting and how he became involved in the Walker start. Jen gave a timeline presentation of the Classis involvement and explained how the start and Classis timelines sometimes clashed. Our September Classis meeting was set for a date prior to Harbor's finalizing details for the actual start.

In later conversations it was determined that Harbor and the Classis had different understandings of the process. Harbor intends that Walker will be a site within Harbor and not a church start as understood by the Classis. There hasn't been any final decision on what structure the Walker site will have. During the interim the Classis is suspending the financial support pledged in the current budget until all details are worked out.

The goal is to provide the Classis with a proposal addressing how this relationship can work during the March meeting.

The Classis presented a baptismal bowl to the Walker site in a spirit of building Christ's kingdom in Walker. The first formal service will be 10 AM on February 12, 2017. Congregations are asked to pray for this service and to send an elder at 9 AM to bath the service in prayer.

Paul Bradford and Mike Gafa offered prayers for Aaron and the new site that the work will be blessed.

3. Discussion of Proposed Changes to the BCO Regarding Marriage. Documents enclosed for possible church use. Jen provided an overview of the proposed changes to the BCO and asking members and delegates to study them well before the March 2017 vote. She also highlighted the resource paper that might be used within the congregations.

4. Classis Leader Report – focus on recommendation to form an ad hoc committee for developing a methodology for identifying emerging leadership within churches. Raised the topic of creating a grant program for ministers without charge or candidates for ministry.

Motion made, supported, and approved to form an ad hoc committee for developing a methodology for identifying emerging leadership within churches and to equip them; members to be made up one member from the Executive Committee, Student Care Committee, Specialized Ministry Committee, Pastoral Care Committee and one at large member—Katie Baker; the others to be named later by the Executive Committee.

5. Introduce Class Newsletter. Mike introduced the new Classis newsletter intended for distribution. Part of the success of the newsletter is for churches to provide news and information for distribution.
6. Classis Provided Employee Assistance Program Through Pine Rest.

### **Student Care Committee**

Motion made, supported, and approved that the Classis of North Grand Rapids hereby petitions MFCA to substitute a period of supervised ministry (21 months) in lieu of the twenty-four month period of supervision by the Reformed Church in America for Jason Vermeulen.

Motion made, supported, and approved that the Classis permit the Student Care Committee administer one exam (out of the four) using a pre-recorded video interview. This interview would be done in May and uploaded to the NGR classis website for classis members to view or listen to on their own time prior to the June exam.

### **Particularia**

The Rev. Dan Plasman requested to be granted retirement status effective January 17, 2017.

Motion made, supported, and approved to grant Rev. Dan Plasman retirement status effective January 17, 2017.

The Stated Clerk thanked Central Reformed for hosting the meeting.

**Announcements/Reminders:** Consistorial Reports must be completed by March 1, Constitutional Inquiries due as soon as possible, Salary and Benefits Compliance Statements are past due; get them in as soon as possible, Resource Allocation web form, annual consistory and elders minutes review must be sent to John Jacobitz or Stated Clerk as soon as possible.

The Classis Changes Report was distributed.

Sarah Juist is taking a call to the Hanover Presbyterian Church, Hanover OH and will remain a member of North Grand Rapids Classis.

### **Resolutions**

Motion made, supported, and approved to excuse the absences of Joel Bengelink, Nancy Boote, Laura Claus, Marcia Elders, Bill Fennema, Elder Bruce Holleboom, Doug Kiel, Kate Kooyman, Lou Lotz, Dan Plasman, Elder Kurt Reppart, Eric Schalk, Bill VanderWerp, David Veldt, Don Veltman, George Werkema, Steve Wolters.

### **Closing**

Motion made, supported, and approved to close the meeting.

Closing Prayer by Tammy Schollaart.

## **Next Classis Meetings**

Executive Committee Meetings: Third Tuesday of the Month except January, March, and September. 11:30 AM, Third Reformed Church

Special Session: February 21, 2017 Third

Classis Stated Session: March 21, 2017 Fourth

Student Exams: June 20, 2017, Knapp

Stated Session: September 19, 2017 Church of the Master

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Jennifer Petersen, President

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Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk

**CHANGE REPORT**  
**Classis of North Grand Rapids**  
**Reformed Church in America**  
**2016**

**Examination for Declaration of Licensure:**

Laura Claus, June 2016

**Ordinations:**

Laura Claus, June 2016

**Installations:**

Rev. Eric Schalk, May 2016, Fourth

Rev. Jeff Petersen, July 2016, Third

**Received from Other Classes:**

Rev. Sarah Juist, January 2016, Illinois

**Transfers to Other Classes:**

Rev. Lisa Tice, June 2016, New Brunswick

**Received from Other Classis/Denomination:**

None

**Transfers to Other Classis/Denomination:**

Rev. Andrew DeBraber, April 2016, UCC

Rev. Evelyn Diephouse, June 2016, PCUSA

**Dissolutions:**

Rev. Dr. Louis Lotz, March 2016

Revs. Jennifer and Jeff Petersen, June 2016

**Change in Ministerial Status within the Classis:**

Rev. Brad Olson, April 2016 (without charge)

Rev. Jennifer Petersen, June 2016 (without charge)

Rev. Jeff Petersen, July 2016 (installed Third Reformed)

Rev. Lisa Henderson, August 2016 (MUC)

**Without Charge:**

Rev. Brad Olson, April 2016

Rev. Jennifer Petersen, June 2016

**Demitted:**

Sophie Landt, September 2016

**Retired:**

Rev. Dr. Louis Lotz, March 2016

Rev. Diane Konynenbelt, September 2016

**Inactive:**

None

**Deceased:**

Rev. Dr. Richard Bates, May 2016