

Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Stated Session
 Casnovia Reformed Church
 September 20, 2016

Opening:

Worship Service

led by Jason Vermeulen, student under care II Corinthians 2:14-17. He offered a meditation on the fragrance of the Jesus.

Business Meeting Called to Order by Bob Engelsman, President at 6:45 PM.

Roll Call (completed by signature)

A – Excused Absence U – Unexcused Absence

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Aberdeen Reformed	Ryan Landt	(U)	
Casnovia	Vacant	Jason Vermeulen	Rick Stoll
Central Reformed	Vacant	Helen Phillips	Jeff DeVree (A)
	Katie Baker	Marla Lunderberg	
Church of the Master	David Mayer	Jack Moy	
Clancy Street Fellowship	Carol Faas (MUC)	Steve Faas	Christiana DeGroot
The Community - Ada	William Norden	Bob Engelsman	
	Mara Joy Norden		
Fourth Reformed	Eric Schalk	Tom Boehm	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman	Russ Ripma	
Oakview Community Church	Gerald Vander Velde (MUC)	John Dykema (A)	Jerry DeRuiter
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel	Michael Bart	Henry Smitter
	Kathy Bartels (MUC)	William Hahn	
	Laura Claus (MUC)		
Remembrance Reformed	Eric Cook	Ed DeGroot	Pam Kragt
	Todd Schmidt	John Jacobitz (A)	
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel (A)	Bruce Holleboom (A)	
	Kristi Kiel (A)		
Richmond Reformed	Christopher Westerbeek	Mark Mulder	
Rockford Reformed	Paul Bradford	Scott Brownell	
Servant's Community	Vacant	Cindy Bennett	Kurt Reppart
Standale	Jessica Shults	Lin Cline	
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen	Tammy Schollart	Ron Schollaart
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins		
	Sarah Bruins		
Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive			
Lee Ausema (A)	Nancy Boote (A)	Eric Branch (U)	Nancy Claus (U)
Susan Cleveland (A)	John Delger (U)	Marcia Elders (A)	Sarah Juist
Kate Kooyman (A)	Steve Luchies (A)	Diane Maodush-Pitzer	Tim Meendering
Cheryl Molhoek (U)	Adam Navis (U)	Robyn Saylor (U)	
Steve Wolters (A)	David Veldt (U)		
Rachel Bush	Lisa Henderson (U)	Diane Konynenbelt	Brad Olson (U)
Jennifer Petersen	Dan Plasman (U)	Jonathan Tice (U)	Susan VanderWall (U)

Bill VanderWerp (A)	Aaron Wetzel		Andre Daley (U)
Retired Ministers and Guests			
Ralph Robrahn	Tom Woudstra	Matt Shults	
Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor			
Willa Brown (A)	George VanderHyde (U)		
Joel Bengelink (A)	Mike Gafa	George Werkema (U)	

Welcome

Rev. Billy Norden gave an overview of the Casnovia church ministry status and effort to discern the church's future in ministry.

Mike Gafa offered a prayer for Susan Cleveland as she recovers from surgery.

Todd Schmidt prayed for John Jacobitz whose daughter died this past week.

Appoint Tellers

Tellers were appointed from Church of the Master, Fourth, and Knapp.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made, supported, and approved to accept the minutes of the January 19, May 1, May 19, June 12, July 17, 2016 meetings.

Committee and Council Reports

Executive Committee

Bob Engelsman highlighted the report content: Clancy Street Ministry and the Resource Allocation Request form.

Motion made, supported, and approved by a two thirds majority that:

- The consistory of the Clancy Street Fellowship is superseded effective at 11:59 PM, December 31, 2016.
- The Classis will pay six months' severance pay for Steve and Carol Faas and CSM staff.
- The Classis will provide healthcare coverage for Steve Faas and family during 2017.
- Severance payments and health insurance coverage are contingent upon Steve and Carol signing a severance agreement that includes a clause that requires Steve and Carol to provide only positive reinforcement of the supersession and new ministry start.
- The current consistory can be involved during a transition period but the Classis will not guarantee that the parenting church will include members of the former consistory in governance of the new start, although there is obvious benefit to the parenting church to involve some members of the prior consistory.

- The Classis will make the mortgage payments retroactive to July 2016 and ongoing. The Classis finance committee will make a recommendation at a future date as whether the mortgage should be paid off or continue monthly payments to loan maturity.
- The Classis will continue to support Henry Phillips' commissioned pastor training presuming that Henry is willing to continue his training.

Carol Faas stated that due to personal reasons Henry is suspending his participation in the Commissioned Pastor program.

Bob Engelsman offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Steve and Carol's ministry and for the future of the ministry.

Motion made, supported, and approved that to the Classis that Tom Boehm be appointed to the Words of Hope Board as the elder delegate from North Grand Rapids Classis.

Mike Gafa gave a presentation of his role as Classis Leader and thanked the Classis for welcoming him and his role within the Classis. He reported on his performance goals and his interactions with the consistories, ministers, and students on a regular basis. He highlighted the February open and loving discussion of same sex marriage and how it was a strong statement of the Classis' ability to talk and listen.

Finance Committee

Motion made, supported, and approved the Ministerial Guidelines which stipulates the minimum salaries for church pastors.

Motion made, supported, and approved the proposed assessments and budget for 2017.

Fund	Amount Per Communicant
General Synod	\$52.23
Regional Synod	\$18.50
Classis	\$4.95
Salary Aid	\$1.00
Student Aid	\$0.60
Multiplication	\$0.60
Total	\$77.88

Nominations Committee

Motion made, supported, and approved the following appointments to the respective committees.

President

Rev. Jennifer Petersen

Vice President

Russ Ripma is an Elder from Knapp Reformed. He has served on consistory for 20 of the 30 years that he has been at Knapp. He has also been a regular part of the life of Classis, serving 12 of the last 15 years as the Classis Delegate from Knapp Reformed.

Tammy Schollaart is a member of Third Reformed. She has served two terms on consistory there and has also served on the Executive Board of the Regional Synod. Tammy was a part of facilitating conversations throughout the RCA a few years ago when the Denomination led a series of conversations across the denomination for those who were interested. She's also served on the Rockford School Board.

Tammy Schollaart was elected vice president.

Executive Committee

Vacant, one lay or clergy person to fill a full term ending 9/18/2018.

Finance Committee

Travis Buys to fill an unexpired term ending 9/17/2017.

Tim Elzinga to fill a full term ending 9/18/2018.

John Lunderberg to an extra position term ending 9/18/2018.

Vacant, one clergy position to fill a full term ending 9/18/2018.

Overtures and Judicial Business Committee

Jeff DeVree to a full term ending 9/18/2018.

Rev. Ben Bruins to a full term ending 9/18/2018.

Rev. Kristi Kiel to an extra position, second term ending 9/18/2018.

Vacant, one layperson to fill an unexpired term ending 9/19/2017.

Pastoral Care Committee

Rev. John Delger to fill a full term ending 9/17/2019.

Rev. Rachel Bush to fill a full term ending 9/17/2019.

Lin Cline to fill a full term ending 9/17/2019.

Vacant, one elder to fill an unexpired term ending 9/19/2017.

Vacant, one elder to fill a full term ending 9/17/2019.

Specialized Ministry Committee

Lisa Henderson to fill a full term ending 9/18/2018.

Vacant, one layperson to fill an unexpired term ending 9/19/2017.

Vacant, two laypersons to fill full terms ending 9/18/2018.

Student Care Committee

Adam Navis to fill an unexpired term ending 9/19/2017.

Aaron Wetzel to fill a full term ending 9/19/20 and be appointed co-leader.

Vacant, one elder to fill an unexpired term ending 9/19/2017.

Vacant, one elder to fill a full term ending 9/19/2019.

Student Care Committee

Motion made, supported, and approved to receive Matt Shults under the care of Classis. Matt described his call to ministry and Jess Shults offered a pray for his studies and future ministry.

Commissioned Pastor Team

Motion made, supported, and approved to receive Shelley Henning under the care of Classis in the Commissioned Pastor program. Kathy Bartels offered a prayer for her study and ministry at Remembrance.

Introduced Jerry DeRuiter as once again actively pursuing his Commissioned Pastor studies.

Miscellaneous

Process for Discussing General Synod Proposed Changes to the BCO specific to marriage: Jennifer Petersen

Discussions will take place during the stated session in January 2017, a special session in February, and discussion and vote during the March 2017 meeting.

Request for Demission from Rev. Sophie Landt

Motion made, supported, and approved to grant Rev. Sophie Landt's request to demit without prejudice or cause.

Request for Retirement from Rev. Diane Konynenbelt

Motion made, supported, and approved to grant Rev. Konynenbelt's request to retire.

Announcements/Reminders: Consistorial Reports, Constitutional Inquiries

General and Regional Synod Delegates

Approval of the following as delegates:

General Synod *June 8-14, 2017*

Ministers: Mara Norden, Christopher Westerbeek

Elders: Resurrection, Servant's

Alternates: Revs., Katie Baker; Elders Standale, Third

Regional Synod May 8, 2017

Year Two

Ministers: Jennifer Petersen, Kathy Bartels
Elders: Rockford, Standale

Year One

Ministers: Adam Navis, Todd Schmidt
Elders: Church of the Master, Richmond

Alternates: Revs. Les Wiseman, Billy Norden; Elders Servant's, Third

Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and approved to excuse the absences of Lee Ausema, Joel Bengelink, Nancy Boote, Willa Brown, Susan Cleveland, John Dykema, Elder, Oakview; Marcia Elders, John Jacobitz, Doug, Kristi Kiel and elder, Kate Kooyman, Steve Luchies, Bill Vander Werp, Jeff DeVree, Don Veldman, Steve Wolters

Appreciation to given to Casnovia for hosting the meeting and providing the meal.

Seating of the President

Jen thanked Bob Engelsman for his service and presented a gift from the Classis and also thanked Rob Teitsma and Mike Gafa for their dedication to the Classis work.

Jen promoted the Restorative Practices conference in October and encouraged participation.

Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Jennifer Petersen

Next Classis Meetings

Classis Stated Session: January 17, 2017 Central

Special Session: February 21, 2017 To Be Announced

March 21, 2017 Fourth

June 20, 2017 Student Exams, Knapp

September 19, 2017 Church of the Master