

Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Special Session – Student Exams

Third Reformed Church

May 17, 2022

Opening: Devotion Service led by

Rev. Dr. Steven Pierce, pastor of Central Reformed Church.

Examination Meeting Called to Order by Tim Meendering, President at 6:43 PM

Roll Call (completed by signature)

A – Excused Absence U – Unexcused Absence

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Central Reformed	Steven Pierce	Willa Brown	Jeff DeVree
The Community - Ada	Mara Joy Norden (A)	Katie Music-Reynhout (U)	
Fourth Reformed	Eric Schalk	(U)	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman (A)	Keith Hinkle (U)	
Oakview Community Church	Vacant	John Dykema (A)	(U)
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel (A)	Cori Kahler	Bill Hahn
	Laura Dilley (MUC)		
Remembrance	Eric Cook	Doug Kloostra	John Jacobitz
	Todd Schmidt	Eric Miedema	
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel (A)	Katrina Towns (U)	
Richmond Reformed	Vacant	Nancy Werkema	(U)
Rockford Reformed	Tim Meendering	Scott Jacobs	
Servant's Community	Vacant	Lisa Fox (A)	Bill Beatty (A)
Standale	Jessica Shults (A)	Lin Cline	
	Matt Shults (A)		
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen	Ron Schollaart	
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	Jan Koopman	
	Sarah Bruins		
Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive			
Katherine Baker (U)	Nancy Boote	Jennifer Holmes Curran (A)	
Anne Elzinga (A)	Kristi Kiel (U)	Ryan Landt (U)	Steve Luchies
Kristen Meyer	Cheryl Molhoek	Adam Navis (A)	Billy Norden
Branson Parler	Rebecca Stegeman Riekse	Matt Rose (U)	Robyn Saylor (U)
	Dave Vander Woude (U)	David Veldt	
Eric Bogerd (A)	Eric Branch (U)	Rachel Bush (U)	Nancy Claus
John Delger	Kate Kooyman	David Mayer (A)	Jennifer Petersen (A)
Jonathan Tice (A)	Susan VanderWall (U)	Bill VanderWerp	Aaron Wetzel
Steve Wolters		Andre Daley	
Retired Ministers			
Ralph Robrahn	Tom Woudstra		
Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor			
Willa Brown		George Werkema	

Guests			
Tim Elzinga	Steve Steenwyk		

Committee and Team Report

Student Care Committee

Introduce Examiners

- The Nature and Administration of the Sacraments – Bill VanderWerp
- Theology – Eric Schalk
- Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (Standards, Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and Liturgy) of the RCA – Sarah Bruins
- History of RCA Missions – Kate Kooyman

Introduce Candidate and Announcements Regarding Exam Protocols

Luke Harkema, Western Theological Seminary

Prayer for Student and Examiners

Eric Schalk offered a prayer for the examiners and candidate during the interviews.

The Nature and Administration of the Sacraments

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Luke Harkema.

Theology

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Luke Harkema.

Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (the Standards, the Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and the Liturgy) of the RCA (Polity and Standards)

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Luke Harkema.

History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Luke Harkema.

Motion made, supported, and passed to call the meeting into Executive Session. All guests and non-delegates were asked to leave the assembly.

Executive Session

Members and Delegates were informed that the Classis standard for sustaining or remanding an examination is determined by the gathered body conducting the examinations rather than using a rigid standard set by the Classis. As such, the Classis in its wisdom, may remand one or more exams for re-examination at a date set by the Classis.

Sacraments

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Sacraments for Luke Harkema.

Theology

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Theology for Luke Harkema.

Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (the Standards, the Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and the Liturgy) of the RCA (Polity and Standards)

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Polity and Standards for Luke Harkema.

History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission for Luke Harkema.

Licensed Candidate

Motion made, supported, and passed to declare Luke Harkema as a licensed candidate.

Motion made, supported, and passed to end the Executive Session. Non-delegates and guests were invited to return to the meeting.

Reading and Signing of the Declaration for Licensed Candidates

Luke Harkema read and signed the declaration for licensed candidates. Luke has a conditional call to the Stanton Reformed Church in Stanton, New Jersey declaration as a licensed candidate. Ordination is set for June 5, 2022 at Trinity Reformed Church. Appropriate notice will be sent.

Rev Ben Bruins offered a prayer of blessing for Luke Harkema and his future ministry.

Particularia

The Stated Clerk thanked Central Reformed Church as the host church for the meeting.

Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and approved to excuse the absences of Bill Beatty, Eric Bogerd, Jennifer Holmes Curran, John Dykema, Anne Elzinga, Bill Fennema, Lisa Fox, Bob Karel, Doug Kiel, David Mayer, Mara Norden, Jen Petersen, Jess Shults, Matt Shults, Jonathan Tice, Mark Veldt, Les Wiseman.

Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Sarah Bruins.

Next Classis Meetings

Stated Session – September 20, 2022 The Community - Ada; dinner 5:45 PM session 6:45 PM
January 16, 2023, Fourth Reformed; dinner 5:45 PM session 6:45 PM
March 20, 2023, Knapp Reformed; dinner 5:45 PM session 6:45 PM

Handwritten signature of Tim Meendering in blue ink.

Tim Meendering, President

Handwritten signature of Robert J. Teitsma in blue ink, set against a light gray rectangular background.

Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk