

Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Stated Session
 Fourth Reformed Church
 March 21, 2017

Opening:

Worship Service and Devotion

Student Under Care, Matt Shults led service.

Business Meeting Called to Order by Jennifer Petersen, President at 7:09 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	Branson Parler	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman	David D Decker	
Oakview Community Church	Gerald Vander Velde (MUC)	John Dykema	
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel	Michael Bart	Rob Lough
	Kathy Bartels (MUC)		
	Laura Claus (MUC)		
Remembrance Reformed	Eric Cook	Steve Chanter	Ed DeGroot
	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	Cindy Bennett
Standale	Jessica Shults	Lin Cline	
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen	Ron Schollaart	Tammy Schollaart
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	Kerri Vryhof	
	Sarah Bruins		
Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive			
Lee Ausema (U)	Nancy Boote	Eric Branch (U)	Nancy Claus
Susan Cleveland	John Delger	Marcia Elders (A)	Lisa Henderson
Sarah Juist (A)	Kate Kooyman	Steve Luchies	Diane Maodush-Pitzer (A)
Tim Meendering	Cheryl Molhoek (U)	Adam Navis	Robyn Saylor (U)
David Veldt	Steve Wolters		
Rachel Bush	Brad Olson (U)	Jennifer Petersen	Jonathan Tice (A)
Susan VanderWall (A)	Bill VanderWerp	Aaron Wetzel	
Andre Daley (U)			

Retired Ministers			
Bill Fennema	Louis Lotz	Dan Plasman	
Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor			
Willa Brown (A)	George VanderHyde (U)		
Joel Bengelink (A)	Mike Gafa	George Werkema (U)	
Guests			
Russ Ripma	Cathy Millard		

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made, supported, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 17 and February 21, 2017 meetings.

Appoint Tellers

Tellers were appointed from the elder delegates of Resurrection, Richmond, and Rockford.

President’s State of Religions Report

Jennifer Petersen presented the annual state of religion report that highlighted:

“While numbers continue to trend down, the stories of faithfulness and transformative work in our congregations is what really defines our ministries in the past year.”

Motion made, supported, and passed to receive the President's report.

Committee and Council Reports

Executive Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed for Rachel Bush to serve on Executive Committee as a representative of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Overtures and Judicial Business

The following are the results of the proposed amendments to the Book of Church Order. Sixty-four members and delegates were eligible to vote. There were no abstentions on any amendment.

1. Adoption of “Order for Christian Marriage” as part of the Liturgy of the Reformed Church in America.

27 Yes 37 No

2. Supervision of Candidates for Ministry who are Not Members of a Local Church.

18 Yes 46 No

3. Marriage Solemnized in a Church or Congregation.

31 Yes 32 No

4. Regional Synod Responsibilities.

58 Yes 6 No

5. Appointment of Candidates to Churches without Installed Minister or Minister Under Contract.

62 Yes 2 No

6. Church Membership.

62 Yes 2 No

7. Appendix, Formulary No. 5 and Related Constitutional Provisions Applicable to Consistories.

62 Yes 2 No

Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care made a presentation about supporting pastor's mental health and encouraged pastors to contact the committee when they have a need for support.

Student Care Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed that the student exam for History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to its Mission be administered in written form. The exam would be given to the students with a due date 7 days prior to the student exams. This will be submitted to the examiner, who will then ensure that all members of classis have the exam to read prior to the exam date. During the classis exams, a time for further questions and clarification will be given for additional questions from the floor.

Motion made, supported, and passed that the student exam for History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to its Mission be administered by Eric Schalk; the Nature and Administration of the Sacraments be administered by Bill Vanderwerp; the student exam for Theology to be administered by Adam Navis, and that the student exam for Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (the Standards, the Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and the Liturgy) of the RCA be administered by Kate Kooyman.

Miscellaneous

Announcements/Reminders

- Consistorial Reports: a preliminary summary was distributed; if you have changes or corrections submit to the Stated Clerk no later than March 28, 2017.
- Constitutional Inquiries: A summary of responses was distributed and included in the minutes of this meeting.
- Salary and Benefits Validation for 2016. All churches with the exception of one state they are in compliance with the terms of the calls to their respective ministers. The church not in compliance is working to correct the situation.

Particularia

The Stated Clerk thanked Fourth Reformed for preparing the meal and hosting the meeting.

Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and passed to approve the request from Marcia Elders to be granted retirement status.

Motion made, supported, and passed to ratify the appointment of Rev. Billy Norden to the Regional Synod of the Great Lakes Executive Committee.

Motion made, supported, and passed to approve the requests for excused absences from Willa Brown, Marcia Elders, Bruce Holleboom, Doug Kiel, Lou Lotz, Diane Moadush-Pitzer, Jonathan Tice, Susan VanderWall, and Don Veltman.

Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Rev. Jen Petersen

Next Classis Meetings

Stated Session – September 19, 2017 Faith Harvest Church, Warren MI, Dinner 5:45 PM; session 6:45 PM
January 16, Oakview Reformed Dinner 5:45 PM; session 6:45 PM

Student Exams – July 11 at Knapp Reformed Church 6:30 PM (No Dinner)

Jennifer Petersen, President

Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk