

Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Faith Harvest Church

Warren MI

September 19, 2017

Opening:

Worship service led by Rev. David Mayer and Melody

Jen Petersen prayed for David, Melody, and the Faith Harvest Congregation.

Business Meeting Called to Order by Jennifer Petersen, President at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call (completed by signature)

A – Excused Absence U – Unexcused Absence

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Aberdeen Reformed	Ryan Landt (U)	(U)	
Casnovia	Vacant	Jason Vermeulen (A)	Rick Stoll (A)
Central Reformed	Vacant	Helen Phillips	Jeff DeVree
		Marla Lunderberg	
Faith Harvest	David Mayer	Deb Schmidt	
Fourth Reformed	Eric Schalk	Tom Boehm (A)	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman (A)	(U)	
Oakview Community Church	Gerald Vander Velde (MUC) (U)	(U)	
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel (A)	Michael Bart (A)	Henry Smitter (A)
	Kathy Bartels (MUC) (A)		
	Laura Claus (MUC) (A)		
Remembrance Reformed	Eric Cook	Eunice Kooiman (U)	Pam Kragt (U)
	Todd Schmidt (A)	John Jacobitz	
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel	Bruce Holleboom	
	Kristi Kiel (A)		
Richmond Reformed	Christopher Westerbeeck	(U)	
Rockford Reformed	Paul Bradford	(U)	
Servant's Community	Mark Veldt	Kurt Reppart (U)	Cindy Bennett (A)
Standale	Jessica Shults	Lin Cline (A)	
The Community – Ada	Billy Norden	Bob Engelsman (U)	
	Mara Joy Norden (A)		
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen (A)	Ron Schollaart	Tam Schollaart (VP)
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	Kerri Vryhof (A)	
	Sarah Bruins (A)		
Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive			
Lee Ausema (A)	Nancy Boote (A)	Eric Branch (U)	Nancy Claus (A)
Susan Cleveland (A)	John Delger (A)	Lisa Henderson (U)	Sarah Juist (A)
Kate Kooyman (A)	Steve Luchies (A)	Diane Maodush-Pitzer (A)	Tim Meendering (A)
Cheryl Molhoek (A)	Adam Navis (A)	Robyn Saylor (U)	David Veldt
Steve Wolters (U)			
			Katie Baker (A)
Rachel Bush (A)	Brad Olson (U)	Jennifer Petersen	Jonathan Tice (U)
Susan VanderWall (U)	Bill VanderWerp (A)	Aaron Wetzel	Andre Daley (U)

Retired Ministers/Guests			
Bill Fennema (A)	Lou Lotz (A)	Don Veltman	
Scott Rose	Mark Veldt		
Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor			
Willa Brown (A)	George VanderHyde (U)		
Joel Bengelink (A)	George Werkema		

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made, supported, and passed to accept the minutes of the March 21 and July 11, 2017.

Appoint Tellers

Tellers were appointed from Servant's, Standale, and The Community - Ada.

Committee and Council Reports

Executive Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to ratify the votes to supersede the Casnovia Reformed Church Consistory effective July 8, 2017 and to disband the church effective October 1, 2017.

Motion made, supported, and passed to ratify the appointment of Diane Maodush-Pitzer to the Regional Synod of the Great Lakes Overtures and Judicial Business Committee.

Motion made, supported, and passed to that Jason Vermeulen be granted severance pay in the amount of \$2,000 per month for six months (\$12,000) beginning October 1, 2017 and he live in the parsonage at no cost during that time, he notifies the Board of Trustees that he is moving, or the property is sold. Jason will also provide limited caretaker duties during that time. Severance payments will end if Jason takes employment during that time.

Tammy Schollaart provided an update of the search for a new part-time Classis Leader.

Nominations Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to appoint the following to the respective Committees.

Finance Committee, appoint Jon Lunderberg to a full two-year time ending September 17, 2019.

Pastoral Care Committee, appoint Nancy Claus to a full three term ending September 15, 2020. Appoint Lou Lotz to an extra position for a three-year term ending September 15, 2020.

Student Care Committee, appoint Bill VanderWerp to a full three term ending September 15, 2020.

Appoint Travis Buys as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and representative to the Executive Committee.

The President thanked those whose terms on Committees are finished.

Specialized Ministry Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to ordain Branson Parler as Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Church Multiplication Team

Paul Bradford reported on recent discussions regarding the Walker Harbor Church (WHC).

1. Our mutual desire and intent is (a) that the future Pastor of WHC will eventually be ordained through NGR Classis and become a member of the NGR Classis, and (b) that when WHC is organized, it will become a part of the NGR Classis. We will work together with denominational officials to ensure that this can be done in compliance with the Book of Church Order.
2. To facilitate communication and partnership, Greg VanderMeer will attend the NGR Classis CMT at least until a new pastor is hired for HWC. Once hired, the HWC pastor will become a member of the Church Multiplication Team (CMT) at least until the church is organized.
3. So that NGR can actively participate in the planting process, the NGR Classis CMT will function as the Oversight Team of WHC. We will seek to add people to the CMT whose presence will benefit both NGR Classis and WHC. At the invitation of the CMT, Tom Elenbaas will attend a CMT meeting at least once per year so that we can together access the ongoing effectiveness of our partnership.
4. At least twice per year, and at the invitation of NGR Classis, Greg and/or the future HWC pastor will attend the NGR Stated Classis Meetings and give a verbal update on WHC.
5. So that NGR can observe and learn from the Harbor Churches planting process, at least every other month the CMT will arrange for one of its members (and/or for other interested members of NGR Classis) to attend one of the weekly WHC Leadership Team meetings at Fairhaven or a meeting of the WHC core team.
6. NGR churches and/or members will participate in WHC through (a) joint events and (b) by sending people to WHC as short-term Sunday ministry volunteers. This participation will be initiated by the CMT. WHC will let us know of their volunteer needs and other participation opportunities.

Paul also reported on the status of the Clancy Street Ministries project.

Finance Committee

Motion made and supported to the approve the 2018 operating budget and assessments.

Motion made, supported, and passed to the amend the motion to change the budget line item of \$20,000 for the Walker Harbor Church to a zero percent interest loan, which may be forgiven if Walker Harbor Church meets the following conditions: (a) that the future Pastor of WHC will eventually be ordained through NGR Classis and become a member of the NGR Classis; (b) that when WHC is organized, it will become a part of the NGR Classis; and (c) North Grand Rapids Classis will have oversight of the organized church.

Motion made, and supported to the approve to change the Classis assessment for the Classis Leader to \$1 from \$6.

Motion passed to the approve the 2018 operating budget and assessments.

Assessments

General Synod	\$53.75
Regional Synod	\$19.50
Classis	\$ 6.50
Classis Salary Aid	\$ 0.50
Classis Student Gifts	\$ 0.50
Classis Church Multiplication	\$ 0.50
Total Assessment	\$81.25

Miscellaneous

General Synod/Regional Synod Delegate Reports

Delegates from the 2016 General and Regional Synods reported on their experiences.

Ministerial Excellence Fund

The Regional Synod has received a Lilly Foundation grant to help ministers who need financial aid for medical or other debts. North Grand Rapids Classis can receive a \$25,000 distribution from the grant if the Classis matches the amount.

Motion made, and supported to include \$25,000 in the 2018 operating budget to match the Lilly Grant Funds.

General and Regional Synod Delegates

Approval of the following as delegates (no churches replied to an earlier notice that they were unable to provide elders for these meetings):

General Synod June 7-12, 2018

Ministers: Billy Norden, Nancy Claus

Elders: Standale, Third

Alternates: Revs. Nancy Boote, Ben Bruins; Elders Knapp, Richmond

Regional Synod May 7, 2018

Year Two

Ministers: Adam Navis, Todd Schmidt

Elders: Faith Harvest, Richmond

Year One

Ministers: Les Wiseman, Mara Norden

Elders: Central, Oakview

Alternates: Revs. Christopher Westerbeek, Nancy Boote; Elders Aberdeen, Orchard Hill

Announcements/Reminders:

Consistorial Reports will be available for completion on line sometime in January. Churches should review and update their membership lists before then to ensure accurate reporting and assessment calculations.

Constitutional Inquiries are also due to the Stated Clerk by January 31, 2018. Forms haven't changed, the Stated Clerk will mail out forms in late December 2017.

Ministers Under Contract. The BCO requires that contracts must be renewed annually for all ministers under contract. If you have a "rolling" contract you must still state in writing that the contract is current. Reminder: New contracts for parish ministers must be approved by the pastoral care committee prior to implementation.

Annual Consistory and Clergy Certification of Salary and Benefits is due January 31, 2018. The Clerk will mail out the forms during December. Please ensure that data is accurate; BOBs calculates account balances at the end of the year and often finds discrepancies. Four churches were found in deficit this past year which resulted in additional payments needing to be made.

2017 Minutes for Consistories and Elders must be sent to the Revitalization Team through the Stated Clerk no later than January 15, 2018. Please give this information to your admin people so we can receive the minutes in a timely fashion, unlike this year when it took six months to receive all the minutes. Electronic minutes are preferred.

Particularia

The President stated the Classis' appreciation to Faith Harvest Church as the host church for the meeting.

Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and passed to excuse the absences of Lee Ausema, Katie Baker, Kathy Bartels, Joel Bengelink, Tom Boehm, Nancy Boote, Rachel Bush, Tom and Mary Bos, Willa Brown, Scott Brownell, Sarah Bruins, Laura Claus, Nancy Claus, Susan Cleveland, Lin Cline, John Delger, Bill Fennema, Sarah Juist, Kate Kooyman, Lou Lotz, Steve Luchies, Bob Karel, Diane Maodush-Pitzer, Tim Meendering, Cheryl Molhoek, Adam Navis, Mara Norden, Jeff Petersen, Todd Schmidt, Jess Shults, Ray VanPortfleet, Bill VanderWerp, Jason Vermeulen, Kerri Vryhof, Les Wiseman, and elders from Orchard Hill and Servant's Community.

Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Jen Petersen.

Next Classis Meetings

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

Classis Stated Session:

January 16, 2018 Oakview Reformed 5:45 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Session

March 20, 2018 Orchard Hill, 5:45 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Session

September 18, 2018 Remembrance, 5:45 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Session

Jennifer Petersen, President

Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk