

# Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Stated Session

Servant's Community Church

September 17, 2019

## Opening: Devotion led by Rev. Mark Veldt and student Anne Elzinga

A reading and meditation by Anne Elzinga on John 17.

Business Meeting Called to Order by Tammy Schollaart, President at 6:48 pm.

## Roll Call (completed by signature)

A – Excused Absence U – Unexcused Absence

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Aberdeen Reformed	Matt Rose (MUC)	Ted Myers	
Central Reformed	Steven Pierce	Willa Brown (A)	Jeff DeVree
The Community - Ada	William Norden (A)	Katie Musick-Reynhout	
	Mara Joy Norden (A)		
Faith Harvest	David Mayer	Scott Rose	
Fourth Reformed	Eric Schalk	(U)	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman	(U)	
Oakview Community Church	Vacant	(U)	(U)
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel	Bill Hahn	Mike Bart
	Kathy Bartels (MUC)		
	Laura Dilley (MUC) (A)		
Remembrance Reformed	Eric Cook	John Jacobitz	Stan Kragt
	Todd Schmidt	Kurt Andrews	Travis Buys – Finance Chair
	Dave Vander Woude		
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel (A)	Bruce Holleboom (A)	
Richmond Reformed	Christopher Westerbeek	Mark Mulder	
Rockford Reformed	Tim Meendering	Steven Steenwyk	
Servant's Community	Mark Veldt	Josh Gess	
Standale	Jessica Shults	Lin Cline	
	Matt Shults		
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen	Ron Roden	Tam Schollaart (Pres)
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	(U)	
	Sarah Bruins		
<b>Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive</b>			
Katherine Baker (A)	Eric Bogerd (A)	Nancy Claus	Jennifer Holmes Curran (A)
John Delger (A)	Lisa Henderson (U)	Kristi Kiel (A)	Kate Kooyman (A)
Steve Luchies	Diane Maodush-Pitzer	Kristen Meyer	Cheryl Molhoek
Adam Navis (A)	Branson Parler	Rebecca Stegeman Riekse	Robyn Saylor (U)
David Veldt (U)	Steve Wolters		
Nancy Boote	Eric Branch (U)	Rachel Bush (U)	Ryan Landt (U)
Jennifer Petersen (A)	Jonathan Tice (A)	Susan VanderWall (U)	Bill VanderWerp
Aaron Wetzel			Andre Daley
<b>Retired Ministers</b>			
Bill Fennema (A)	Ralph Robrahn		

<b>Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor</b>			
Willa Brown (A)	George VanderHyde (U)		
Joel Bengelink (A)	George Werkema		

## Approval of the Agenda

Motion made, supported, and passed to approve the agenda as presented.

## Appoint Tellers

Tellers were appointed from Orchard Hill and Remembrance.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made, supported, and passed to accept the minutes of the January 13, installation; January 22, stated session; May 21, student exam; June 6, ordination/installation.

## Welcome

Reception of Rev. Matt Rose, Minister Under Contract, Aberdeen; transfer from Zeeland Classis. Kathy Bartels, supervisor, introduced Matt who provided his background and ministry history. He read and signed the declaration.

Recommendation to take Luke Harkema, Trinity, under student care. Luke described his call to ministry and faith story.

Recommended by the Student Care to take Luke Harkema under the care of Classis during his studies at Western Theological Seminary. Rev. Sarah Bruins offered prayer of gratitude for Luke answering the call to ministry and for blessings on his studies.

Recommended by the Commissioned Pastor Team to take Scott Rose into a training program for a Commissioned Pastor role. Kathy Bartels introduced Scott who described his call to ministry.

Approved the recommendation to take Scott Rose under the supervision of Classis during his training to become a Commissioned Pastor. Rev. David Mayer offered prayer of gratitude for Luke answering the call to ministry and for blessings on his studies.

## Committee and Council Reports

### Executive Committee

President Schollaart highlighted portions of the Executive Committee report. The Classis now owns the house on 242 Cedar St that was part of the Clancy Street Ministry property and discerning its use and future. The Casnovia property sale to a Philippine Church of Christ congregation. Highlighted the November 9, 2019 Vision 2020 overview meeting conducted by the Regional Synod of the Great Lakes.

### Nominations Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to appoint the following to the respective committees for the terms indicated.

### **Finance Committee**

Jon Lunderburg, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Travis Buys, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Billy Norden, 1 year, unexpired term

### **Pastoral Care Committee**

Janis deVree, Central, 2 years, unexpired term ending 9/20/2022  
John Delger, Specialized Minister, 3 years second term ending 9/20/2022  
Clergy, 3 years, term ending 9/20/22 **Volunteer Requested at the Session**  
Dale Millard, Elder Knapp, 3 years second term ending 9/20/2022

### **Overtures and Judicial Business**

Diane Maodush-Pitzer, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Branson Parler, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Sarah Bruins, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Elder, 2 years, term ending 9/21/2021 **Volunteer Requested at the Session**

### **Specialized Ministry Committee**

Clergy, 2 years, term ending 9/21/2021 **Volunteer Requested at the Session**  
John Kozminski, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Steve Luchies, 2 years, second term ending 9/21/2021  
Layperson, 2 years, term ending 9/21/2021 **Volunteer Requested at the Session**  
Layperson, 1 year, term ending 9/21/2020 **Volunteer Requested at the Session**

### **Student Care Committee**

Aaron Wetzel, 3 years, second term ending 9/20/2022  
Paul Troost, 3 years, second term ending 9/20/2022

### **Regional Synod Finance Committee**

Tim Elzinga, 4 years, second term ending 4/30/2023

### **Delegates to General and Regional Synod**

#### **General Synod**

At the 2019 General Synod much discussion was held regarding the Vision 2020 study. The General Synod recommends that classes send the 2019 delegates to the 2020 meeting to provide continuity. At the 2020 meeting delegates will be voting on the recommendations of the Vision 2020 task force as to the future structure of the RCA.

Motion made, supported, and defeated to suspend the Classis Rules of Order that state *“The ministers shall be nominated as follows: the delegates from those who for the longest time have not attended a meeting of General Synod or Regional Synod and the alternates from those next following (Article 4, Section 1, Rules of Order).*

*And,*

*Elder delegates shall be nominated from the various churches of the Classis in rotation, in alphabetical order. A delegate and an alternate shall be nominated from the same church (Article 4, Section 4 Rules of Order)."*

Motion made, supported, and passed to send the following delegates to the 2020 General Synod.

Rev. Nancy Boote  
Rev. Ben Bruins  
Elder, Servant's  
Elder, Third

Motion, made, supported, and passed to rescind the vote to reconsider the vote to suspend the rules of order. There are 44 eligible voters requiring 29 votes to rescind.

Motion made, supported, and defeated to suspend the Classis Rules of Order that state *"The ministers shall be nominated as follows: the delegates from those who for the longest time have not attended a meeting of General Synod or Regional Synod and the alternates from those next following (Article 4, Section 1, Rules of Order).*

And,

*Elder delegates shall be nominated from the various churches of the Classis in rotation, in alphabetical order. A delegate and an alternate shall be nominated from the same church (Article 4, Section 4 Rules of Order)."*

## **Regional Synod**

Motion made, supported, and passed to send the following delegates to the 2020 Regional Synod.

### **Year 2**

Rev. Christopher Westerbeek  
Rev. Steve Luchies [fill an unexpired term]  
Elder Bill Hahn, Orchard Hill  
Elder Bob Engelsman, The Community – Ada

### **Year 1**

Rev. Billy Norden  
Rev. Sarah Bruins  
Elder, Third, Ron Roden  
Elder, Trinity

### **Alternates**

Rev. David Mayer  
Rev. Steve Wolters  
  
Elder, Fourth  
Elder, Knapp

## **Pastoral Care Committee**

Rob Teitsma gave a brief overview of the Classis process for churches calling an installed pastor. He emphasized that it is critical for churches to follow the process to avoid potential problems. These procedures may be found on the Classis website under the Resources tab, which is public.

## **Student Care Committee**

At the January 22, 2019 Stated Session the Classis voted to not renew Craig Vereeke's status as a Licensed Candidate due to inactivity in pursuing ordination. A quick search of past Classis minutes did not reveal that his license was in fact renewed at the May 17, 2016 Student Examination meeting. The Stated Clerk regrets this error of information at the January meeting.

## **Church Multiplication Team**

Rev. Eric Cook reported on the new Belknap church start in conjunction with River City Church and Remembrance. Remembrance will provide financial support with this established church start and the Classis will provide the building.

## **Church Revitalization**

Report received for information.

## **Finance Committee**

Recommendation to approve the 2020 Salary Guidelines proposed by the Regional Synod.

Recommendation to approve the Classis' 2020 budget.

	<b>2020</b>
General Synod	\$54.22
Regional Synod	\$20.00
Classis	\$ 6.50
Salary Aid	\$ 2.00
Student Aid	\$ .50
Church Multiplication	\$ .50
Total	\$83.72

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Announcements/Reminders**

- Consistorial Report documents for 2019 will be emailed to churches on November 15, 2019. Data entry must be completed by February 28, 2020. Now is the time to review your membership to identify inactive members.
- Constitutional Inquiries are due to the Stated Clerk by January 31, 2020. Side Note: Elders Minutes must indicate that at every meeting the elders identified members in need of special care regarding their spiritual condition and/or are not making faithful use of the means of grace, i.e., attending worship and participating in the sacraments and shall provide the means of extending Christian ministry to such persons. Many minutes from 2019 omitted this.
- Specialized Minister Accountability Forms are due to the Stated Clerk by January 15, 2020.
- Standing Dates were distributed via email. Please note the first of the year dates.

## Particularia

The Stated Clerk thanked Servant's for hosting church for the meeting.

## Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and passed to excuse the absences of Katherine Baker, Joel Bengelink, Eric Bogerd, Willa Brown, Jennifer Holmes Curran, John Delger, Laura Dilley, Bill Fennema, Bruce Holleboom, Doug and Kristie Kiel, Kate Kooyman, Adam Navis, Billy and Mara Norden, Jen Petersen, Jonathan Tice.

## Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Tammy Schollaart.

## Next Classis Meetings

January 21, 2020, at 5:45 PM (dinner) 6:30 PM session at The Community-Ada.

March 17, 2020, at 5:45 PM (dinner) 6:30 PM session at Third Reformed.

September 15, 2020 at 5:45 PM (dinner) 6:30 PM session at Aberdeen.

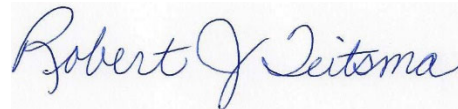
Student Exams (Tentative)

May 19, 2020, no dinner 6:30 PM special session at Trinity Reformed.



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Tamara Schollaart, President



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Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk