

Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Stated Session
 Richmond Reformed
 September 27, 2022

Opening: Devotion led by Student, Lisa VanLonkhuizen. Tim Meendering opened the meeting with prayer.

Business 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
	Matt Shults (MUC)		
The Community - Ada	Mara Joy Norden	Katie Musick-Reynhout	
Fourth Reformed	Eric Schalk	Norma Boehm	
Knapp Street Reformed	Les Wiseman (A)	Keith Hinkle	Dale Millard
Oakview Community Church	Vacant	Jerry DeRuitter (A)	(A)
Orchard Hill Reformed	Bob Karel (U)	Cori Kahler	Bill Hahn
	Laura Dilley (MUC)		
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel (A)	(A)	
Richmond Reformed	Vacant	Mark Mulder (A)	Nancy Werkema
Rockford Reformed	Tim Meendering	Scott Jacobs	
Servant's Community	James Earley	(U)	
Standale	Vacant	Lin Cline	
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen	Ron Schollaart	
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	Jan Koopman	
	Sarah Bruins		
Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive			
Kathy Bartels (A)	Nancy Boote	Jennifer Holmes Curran	Anne Elzinga (A)
Kristi Kiel (U)	Ryan Landt (U)	Steve Luchies (A)	Kristen Meyer
Cheryl Molhoek	Adam Navis (A)	Billy Norden	Branson Parler
Rebecca Stegeman Riekse	Matt Rose	Robyn Saylor (U)	Jessica Shults (A)
Peter TeWinkle	Dave Vander Woude	David Veldt	
Eric Cook	Todd Schmidt		
Eric Bogerd (A)	Eric Branch (U)	Rachel Bush (U)	Nancy Claus
John Delger	Kate Kooyman (A)	David Mayer	Jennifer Petersen
Jonathan Tice (A)	Susan VanderWall (U)	Bill VanderWerp (A)	Christopher Westerbeek
Aaron Wetzel	Steve Wolters (U)		
Andre Daley			
Retired Ministers			
Bill Fennema (A)	Lou Lotz	Ralph Robrahn	Tom Woudstra
Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor			
Willa Brown		George Werkema	
Guests			

Tim Elzinga (Executive Committee)	Scott Rose (Commissioned Pastor Candidate)	Paul Troost	
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Welcome

James Earley was introduced to the Classis.

Asked first time delegates to rise and introduce themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made, supported, and passed to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2022, January 17, 2022, February 13, 2022, May 5, 2022, May 17, 2022, June 6, 2022, July 17, 2022 meetings.

Appoint Tellers

Tellers were appointed from The Community – Ada and Third

Committee and Council Reports

Executive Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to approve the actions taken by the Executive Committee as outlined in its report.

Billy Norden outlined the purpose of the Task Force for Classis Funds. The task force has set a meeting schedule and intend to have a recommendation for mission/vision of the Classis funding from available financial reserves.

Finance Committee

Tim Elzinga thanked Janice Myers for her work on behalf of the Classis. He presented the recommendation from the Finance Committee to adopt the 2023 Minimum Salary Guidelines as presented. Approved as presented.

The Finance Committee recommends approval the 2023 Budget as presented. Approved as presented.

Fund	2023
General Synod	\$55.58
Regional Synod	\$18.50
Classis	\$ 6.50
Total	\$ 80.58*

*Includes assessments owed from churches withdrawing from the RCA.

Nominations Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to suspend the Rules of Order to have two nominees for the office of Vice President and proceed with one nominee.

Motion made, supported, and passed to elect Katie Musick-Reynhout to a two-year term as Vice President effective at the close of business today.

Motion made, supported, and passed to elect Ben Bruins to a two-year term as President effective at the close of business today.

Motion made, supported, and passed to approve the Committee appointments:

Steve Pierce as chairperson of the OJB Committee and member of Executive Committee term ending September 17, 2024.

Tim Elzinga as chairperson of Finance Committee and member of Executive Committee term ending September 17, 2024.

Revs. Nancy Claus and Sarah Van Zetten Bruins as co-chairs of the Student Care Committee and Nancy Claus to the Executive Committee with term ending September 16, 2025.

Len DeBraber to a second full term ending September 17, 2024 and Rev. Cheryl Molhoek, chairperson of the Specialized Ministry Committee and member of the Executive Committee term ending September 19, 2023.

Janice DeVree to an unexpired term on Pastoral Care Committee term ending September 17, 2024.

Questions were raised about the standings of General and Regional Synod minister members who are eligible to be delegates while serving churches withdrawn from the RCA.

Pastoral Care Committee

Report received for information.

Specialized Ministry Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed to designate Rev. Jess Shults and Rev. Peter TeWinkle as specialized ministers.

Peter read and signed the Declaration. Cheryl Molhoek offered a prayer for his ministry as a minister serving a non-RCA congregation.

Adam Navis, specialized minister, has requested to demit from the position of Minister of Word and Sacrament. Ralph Robrahn recognized Adam's service to the Classis and asked that the Classis express its gratitude. The Stated Clerk advised that Adam would receive a communication recognizing his demission with prejudice and open reception to Adam if he decided to be ordained in the future.

Motion made, supported, and passed to grant Adam Navis' request to demit from ministry without prejudice.

Student Care Committee

Motion made, supported, and passed that Kearsten McCoy, member at Servants Community Church and student at Western Seminary, be taken under the care of North Grand Rapids Classis.

Kearsten gave told of her background and a description of her call to ministry.

Motion made, supported, and passed that Kearsten McCoy, student at Western Seminary, be taken under the care of Classis.

James Earley offered a prayer for her seminary work and life as mother, wife, and church worker.

Motion made, supported and passed that Lisa VanLonkhuyzen, student at Western Seminary, be granted the provisional license to preach.

Motion made, supported and passed that Kearsten McCoy, student at Western Seminary, be granted the provisional license to preach.

Petitions to Withdraw from the RCA

The Stated Clerk reviewed the process taken by the ad-hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee, Tim Meendering, Ben Bruins and Rob Teitsma. This included required meetings with each church's consistory to determine

the sincerity of each member for withdrawing from the RCA, conversation with the receiving denomination, and conducting a congregation vote to withdraw. The ad-hoc committee recommends to the Classis that each petition to withdraw be granted.

Orchard Hill

Motion made, supported, and passed to grant Orchard Hill's request to withdraw from the Reformed Church in America.

Knapp

Motion made, supported, and passed to grant Knapp's request to withdraw from the Reformed Church in America.

Fourth

Motion made, supported, and passed to grant Knapp's request to withdraw from the Reformed Church in America.

Miscellaneous

Announcements/Reminders

Consistorial Reports

Online reporting forms will be available the first of January. I'll send a notice with login information and when you may access the web portal. Now is a good time to clean up your membership records.

Constitutional Inquiries

Completed forms are due to the Stated Clerk by January 31, 2023.

Specialized Minister and Without Charge Accountability Forms

These are due to the Stated Clerk by January 15, 2023.

Church/Minister Retirement/Medical Benefits Verification Forms

These are due to the Stated Clerk by January 15, 2023.

Motion made, supported, and passed to appoint the following delegates to 2023 General Synod and 2023 Regional Synod respectively.

General and Regional Synod Delegates

General Synod

Rev. Steve Pierce
Rev. Rebecca Stegeman Riekse
Elder Brian Andrews, Central
Elder John Dykema, Oakview

Regional Synod

Year 2

Rev. Rebecca Stegeman Riekse
Rev. Kristen Meyer

Elder Scott Jacobs, Rockford
Elder, Lin Cline, Standale

Year 1

Rev. Dave Vander Woude
Rev. Jennifer Holmes Curran
Elder Kurt Reppart, Servant's
Elder Brian Andrew, Central

Particularia

The Stated Clerk thanked Richmond for hosting church for the meeting.

New President Ben Bruins thanked Tim Meendering for his four total years of service to the Classis as Vice President and President. He also thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee: Ralph Robrahn, Eric Schalk, Ben thanked all the committee members whose terms expired with this meeting.

Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and passed to excuse the absences of Kathy Bartels, Eric Bogerd, Anne Elzinga, Bill Fennema, Doug Kiel, Kate Kooyman, Steve Luchies, Adam Navis, Jess Shults, Jonathan Tice, Bill VanderWerp, Elders from Oakview, Resurrection.

Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Ben Bruins.

Next Classis Meetings

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

Classis Meeting:

January 16, 2023, The Community - Ada; dinner 5:45 PM session 6:45 PM

March 20, 2023, Oakview; dinner 5:45 PM session 6:45 PM

May 16, 2023, Student Exams (if needed) Resurrection; no dinner session 6:30 PM



Tim Meendering, President



Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk