

Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Special Email Vote

Via Email

February 27, 2024

Email Vote Overseen by Ben Bruins, President at 12:15 PM

Roll Call (completed by email vote)

A – Excused Absence U – Unexcused Absence Y – Yes N – No

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Central Reformed	Steven Pierce Y	Burt VanderLaan Y	Tim Elzinga (Finance Chair)
	Matt Shults (MUC) (U)		
Oakview Community Church	Vacant	Jerry DeRuiter N	Jayne Dykema N
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel Y	(U)	
Richmond Reformed	John Delger Y	Richard Sweedyk Y	
Servant's Community	James Earley Y	Elizabeth Rogers Y	
Standale	Vacant	Lin Cline Y	Deb Webster Y
The Community - Ada	Mara Joy Norden Y	Katie Musick-Reynhout Y	
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen Y	Ron Schollaart Y	
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins Non Voting	Jan Koopman (U)	
	Sarah Bruins (U)		
Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive			
Nancy Boote Y	Jennifer Holmes Curran (U)	Kristi Kiel (U)	Ryan Landt (U)
Steve Luchies (U)	Kristen Meyer (U)	Cheryl Molhoek Y	Billy Norden Y
Rebecca Stegeman Riekse (U)	Matt Rose (U)	Robyn Saylor (U)	Jessica Shults Y
Peter TeWinkle (U)	Dave Vander Woude (U)	David Veldt Y	Les Wiseman Y
Commissioned Pastor/Retired Pastor Actively Serving			
George Werkema Y		Lou Lotz Y	

Approval of the Overture

Twenty-one Yes; Two No.

Miscellaneous

Announcements/Reminders

The President's State of Religion Report for 2024 was distributed as part of the email vote process.

The Classis summary of the Constitutional Question was also distributed as part of the email vote process.

Both documents are enclosed.

2024 State of Religion Report

Classis of North Grand Rapids

Our classis continues to discern our identity as we emerge from a period of disruption and loss. Many in our classis are delighted to note the new sense of cooperation and peacefulness that pervades our meetings. We offer differing perspectives with gentleness and listen to one another with a desire to understand. One manifestation of this spirit is the policy we approved entitled *Living Together with Difference Around Human Sexuality*.

Our classis committees have been resized through the adoption of new rules of order. Each committee is led by a capable chairperson and fully staffed by members. Committees are performing their essential functions and seeking to proactively nurture the health of the classis.

Our classis approved The Branch's request to transfer into our classis. The Executive Committee then discovered transferring a congregation into the classis can be even more work than transferring one out, but it is work we are glad to do. All the learning resulted in classis approving a *Congregational Transfer-In* policy and procedures. These procedures will guide us as work to complete The Branch's transfer and prepare us for any other congregation that asks to join our classis in the future.

Our classis is working toward fiscal sustainability. We've uncovered and communicated the structural deficit the classis operated with for years. In September, we approved a budget that takes the first step of a ten year plan to incrementally increase the classis covenant share percentage until our structural deficit is eliminated.

Our classis is working to foster connections between specialized ministers/ministers without charge and the classis. We recognize and celebrate the role of specialized ministers in their capacities of extending the work of the gospel into the world. At the same time, some of our specialized ministers/ministers without charge are not formally connected to the classis through a congregation, committee participation, or classis attendance. We are exploring ways to deepen and vitalize the connection between specialized ministers/ministers without charge and the classis.

Benjamin Bruins

President of the Classis of North Grand Rapids

Constitutional Inquiry Results 2023

Church	Received	Sec 1 A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
Central	Y	Y	<i>Robert J Teitsma</i>					Y	Y
Oakview	Y	Y						Y	N
Resurrection	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Richmond	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Servant's	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Standale	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
The Community	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Third	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Trinity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Church	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Central	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Oakview	Y	N*	Y	Y	Y	Y	N**
Resurrection	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richmond	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Servant's	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Standale	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
The Community	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Third	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Trinity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

*We have had no children attending in 2022

**No installed minister

Benjamin Bruins

Benjamin Bruins, President

Robert J Teitsma

Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk