

# Classis of North Grand Rapids Meeting Minutes

Special Session – Student Exams

Standale Reformed Church

May 21, 2024

## Opening: Devotion Service led by

Rev. Ben Bruins, President. Exodus 20:18-21; I Kings 8:5-13. Each reading was followed by individual, silent reflection. This was followed by prayer by Ben.

Examination Meeting Called to Order by Ben Bruins, President at 6:38 PM

## Roll Call (completed by signature)

A – Excused Absence U – Unexcused Absence

Church	Clergy	Elder	Elder
Central Reformed	Steven Pierce	Burt VanderLaan	Tim Elzinga (Finance Chair)
	Matt Shults (MUC)		
Oakview Community Church	Vacant	Jerry DeRuiter	Jayne Dykema
Resurrection Reformed	Doug Kiel (U)		
Richmond Reformed	John Delger (A)	Nancy Werkema (A)	
Servant's Community	James Earley	Bill Beatty	
Standale	Vacant	Lin Cline	Deb Webster
The Community - Ada	Mara Joy Norden	Katie Musick-Reynhout (VP)	
Third Reformed	Jeff Petersen (A)	Ron Schollaart (U)	
Trinity Reformed	Ben Bruins	Jan Koopman	
	Sarah Bruins		
<b>Specialized Ministers/Ministers Without Charge/Inactive</b>			
Nancy Boote	Jennifer Holmes Curran (A)	Anne Elzinga	Kristi Kiel (U)
Ryan Landt (U)	Steve Luchies	Kristen Meyer	Cheryl Molhoek
Billy Norden	Phil Pratt (A)	Rebecca Stegeman Riekse (A)	Matt Rose (U)
Robyn Saylor	Jessica Shults	Peter TeWinkle (A)	Dave Vander Woude (U)
David Veldt	Les Wiseman (U)		
Eric Bogerd (A)	Eric Branch (U)	Rachel Bush (A)	Kate Kooyman (U)
Jennifer Petersen (A)	Jonathan Tice (A)	Christopher Westerbeek (U)	Aaron Wetzel (U)
Steve Wolters (U)			
Andre Daley (U)			
<b>Retired Ministers</b>			
Lou Lotz (A)	Ralph Robrahn		
<b>Associates In Ministry, Commissioned Pastor</b>			
Willa Brown		George Werkema (U)	
<b>Students/Guests</b>			
Kearsten McCoy	Lisa VanLonkhuyzen		
Sarah Elzinga	Nick Loubert	Christina Tazelaar	David Vandokkumburg

# Committee Report

## Student Care Committee

### Introduce Examiners

- The Nature and Administration of the Sacraments – Sara Bruins
- Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (Standards, Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and Liturgy) of the RCA – Rob Teitsma
- History of RCA Missions – Steve Pierce
- Theology – Christina Tazelaar

### Introduce Candidate and Announcements Regarding Exam Protocols

Kearsten McCoy, Western Theological Seminary

Lisa VanLonkhuyzen, Western Theological Seminary

### Prayer for Student and Examiners

James Earley offered a prayer for the examiners and candidate during their examinations.

### The Nature and Administration of the Sacraments

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

### Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (the Standards, the Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and the Liturgy) of the RCA (Polity and Standards)

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

### History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

### Theology

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to arrest the examination for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

Motion made, supported, and passed to call the meeting into Executive Session. All guests and non-delegates were asked to leave the assembly.

## Executive Session

Members and Delegates were informed that the Classis standard for sustaining or remanding an examination is determined by the gathered body conducting the examinations rather than using a rigid standard set by the Classis. As such, the Classis in its wisdom, may remand one or more exams for re-examination at a date set by the Classis.

## **Sacraments**

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Sacraments for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Sacraments for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

## **Knowledge of and Adherence to the Constitution (the Standards, the Government and Disciplinary Procedures, and the Liturgy) of the RCA (Polity and Standards)**

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Polity and Standards for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Polity and Standards for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

## **History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission**

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in History of the Reformed Church and Commitment to Its Mission for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

## **Theology**

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Theology for Kearsten McCoy.

Motion made, supported, and passed to sustain the examination in Theology for Lisa VanLonkhuyzen.

## **Licensed Candidate**

Motion made, supported, and passed to declare Kearsten McCoy as a licensed candidate.

Motion made, supported, and passed to declare Lisa VanLonkhuyzen as a licensed candidate.

Motion made, supported, and passed to end the Executive Session. Non-delegates and guests were invited to return to the meeting.

## **Reading and Signing of the Declaration for Licensed Candidates**

Kearsten McCoy and Lisa VanLonkhuyzen read and signed the declaration for licensed candidates. Kearsten has a conditional call to the Servant's Community Church, pending the outcome of her examinations. Appropriate notice of ordination will be sent to the Classis.

Rev Ben Bruins offered a prayer of blessing for Kearsten McCoy and Lisa VanLonkhuyzen for their future ministries.

## **New Business**

James introduced David Vandokkumburg a May 2024 graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary. David wishes to be ordained in the RCA, through the Classis. He will be certified for licensure through the Ministerial Formation Certification Agency. He is undergoing tutoring in RCA polity and standards and RCA history and missions. Examinations will be held at the September stated session. David has the promise of a call to an RCA church in Wisconsin. To facilitate that call the Classis granted David a license to preach.

Motion made, supported, and passed to take David under the care of Classis. The members and delegates read the liturgy for taking a student under care.

Motion made, supported, and passed to petition MFCA to accept David's 14 months of CRC supervision and The Community-Ada's 12 months of supervision internship as satisfying the 24 months of supervision.

Motion made, supported, and passed to grant David a license to preach.

Mara Norden prayed for David's completion of RCA studies and future ministry.

## Particularia

The Stated Clerk thanked Standale Reformed Church as the host church for the meeting.

## Resolutions

Motion made, supported, and approved to excuse the absences of Eric Bogerd, Rachel Bush, Jennifer Holmes Curran, John Delger, Lou Lotz, Jeffery Petersen, Jennifer Petersen, Paul Pratt, Rebecca Stegeman Riekse, Peter TeWinkle, Nancy Werkema.

## Closing

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

Closing Prayer by Sarah Bruins.

## Next Classis Meetings

### Stated Sessions

September 17, 2024; Servant's Reformed Church, Dinner 5:30 PM, session 6:30 PM

February 18, 2025; The Community – Ada, Dinner 5:30 PM, session 6:30 PM

May 20, 2025; Student Exams (if needed) Third Reformed Church, no dinner, session 6:30 PM

September 16, 2025; Third Reformed **if no student exams; otherwise**, Trinity Reformed Church, Dinner 5:30 PM, session 6:30 PM



Ben Bruins, President



Robert J. Teitsma, Stated Clerk