

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Meeting at:
Hahn-In Christian Reformed Church
Wyoming, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Dan Kinnas
Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

OPENING WORSHIP

Members of the Classical Renewal Team led opening worship. Rev. Heather Strooboscher opened the meeting with prayer.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following individuals were present as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		Bob Mast Doug Lutke	
Friendship Heritage Pathway Second Dorr	Dan Kinnas Bob Huisman Adam Nordyke Cedric Parsels	Doug Vander Lee *Dave Raak Larry Maas *Mike Oudbier Bruce Vanden Brink *Justin Helmholdt	*Scott Tiemyer *Eric Helmholdt
Grandville Fellowship Hanley Hope Ivanrest South Grandville Wyoming Calvary	Tom Vander Ploeg Joe VandenAkker Dale Fopma Heather Strooboscher/ Mark Van Drunen Roger Groenboom	Jack De Witte Tom Sterk Brian Boetsma Sue Van't Hof Jim Hop/ *Barb Opperwall *Jim Brinks	Marcia Behrens *Branden Kamps *Gabe Neve *Lance Griffioen/ *Sheri Bouws *Brian Plowman
Faith Community Hahn-In			

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, JANUARY 23, 2020

Hispana Emanuel
Lee Street

Kent Rottman

*Pete Visser

Katy Pastoor

*first-time delegates signing the Covenant for Office-bearers

Article 3

CLASSICAL OFFICERS

Rev. Dan Kinnas assumed the chair. Rev. Bob Huisman served as vice-chairperson. The chairperson welcomed guests and reviewed the schedule for the afternoon and evening.

Article 4

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

The Executive Team made the following recommendation to classis:

That Rev. Tom Groelsema be honorably released from the office of Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church in order to enter ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church in America, in accordance with Article 14b in the Church Order.

ADOPTED.

[PLEASE NOTE THE CONCURRENCE OF SYNODICAL DEPUTIES THAT OCCURRED LATER IN THIS MEETING – see Article 23].

Article 5

COMMUNITY IMPACT TEAM REPORT

Rev. Kent Rottman made the following recommendation on behalf of the Community Impact Team:

The Community Impact Team of Classis Grandville recommends a one-time *Encouragement Gift* of \$5000 be given to Tony and Stacy Meyer from the New Church Development Fund Budget.

Grounds: (1) Tony Meyer served faithfully in Classis Grandville at Ivanrest CRC for over 18 years and left in faith to a call far from the ordinary.

(2) There is a financial need since Tony and Stacey must raise 80% of their support on their own.

ADOPTED.

The churches of classis are urged to consider supporting the Meyer's ministry on an annual basis through their missionary support. Please pass this information on to your Missions Committee.

Rev. Adam Nordyke updated classis on The Grand Rapids Church Planting Collaborative. This group will be meeting next week.

Congregations are encouraged to send representatives to "Church Planting Discovery", an open house on Thursday, February 27, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Golden Age GR (above Creston

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, JANUARY 23, 2020

Brewery). This will be an opportunity to meet church planters, and learn about church planting and models of church plants.

Article 6

CLASSICAL TREASURER

Terry Nyenhuis, classical treasurer, called the attention of classis to the financial reports in the printed agenda.

A motion was made and supported to approve the work of the classical treasurer.

ADOPTED.

Article 7

ESTABLISHED CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Dale Fopma reported on upcoming INTERNOS events for pastors on February 25 and April 28 at Byron Family Restaurant.

Article 8

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Rev. Rog Groenboom made the following recommendation on behalf of the Stewardship Team:

That \$5250 be transferred from the Prayer Team balance to the Executive Team balance, and that \$2475.82 be transferred from the Stewardship Team balance to the Executive Team balance, in order to reduce the Executive Team deficit of \$16,010.84.

ADOPTED.

Article 9

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman reported that Tisha Berkenpas is receiving student fund assistance as she attends seminary part time.

Article 10

PRAYER TEAM

No report.

Article 11

DIACONAL TEAM

No report.

Article 12

REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Art Schoonveld directed the attention of classis to his written report in the classical agenda.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, JANUARY 23, 2020

Article 13

CLASSICAL RENEWAL TEAM

Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg led a classical discussion of provisional recommendations listed in the printed agenda for the restructuring of the way classis meetings are conducted. The comments of classis were noted and will be referred back to the Classical Renewal Team and to the Executive Team as the re-organizational process continues.

Article 14

STATED CLERK REPORT

Stated Clerk Dan Mouw presented a request from the Ivanrest CRC that Rev. Joel Boot be appointed as their classical counselor during their ministerial search process. Rev. Boot is currently serving as the interim pastor of the Ivanrest CRC.

A motion was made and supported to appoint Rev. Joel Boot as classical counselor at the Ivanrest CRC.

ADOPTED.

John De Leeuw has requested that his certificate of licensure to exhort in the churches of Classis Grandville be renewed for another two years.

A motion was made and supported to renew the license of exhort of Mr. John De Leeuw in Classis Grandville for two more years.

ADOPTED.

The First CRC of Byron Center has requested that Rev. Dan Mouw be appointed as their classical counselor during their search process for their next pastor.

A motion was made and supported to appoint Rev. Dan Mouw as classical counselor for the First CRC of Byron Center.

ADOPTED.

A motion was made and supported to approve the work of the stated clerk.

ADOPTED.

Article 15

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Adam Nordyke reported for the Credentials Committee:

From Calvary CRC:

“In 2015, the Council of Calvary CRC committed to paying 100% of ministry shares to Classis Grandville and to work toward paying an increased percentage of our denominational ministry shares. At the same time we realized that although people were joining Calvary as new members, many of these new members were unable to significantly contribute financially to the ministries of the church. Because of these two facts, at that time we requested an exemption based on the number of current members who fit the lower-income guidelines

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, JANUARY 23, 2020

outlined in the synodical guidelines. Each year, since that time, we have requested such an exemption.

For calendar year 2020, we are requesting an exemption of 58 members based on their inability to significantly contribute financially to the ministries of the church. This is out of a total of 214 active adult professing members, which would result in a final number of 157 for the purposes of ministry shares. These numbers were determined during our denominationally required annual membership count.

A motion was made and supported to grant Calvary CRC's request for an exemption of 58 members in determining its classical and denominational ministry shares.

ADOPTED.

From Pathway CRC:

Pathway CRC informed classis that their pastor, Rev. Steve Elzinga, is planning to retire at the end of this year, and their plan is that Jim Heethuis, who serves Pathway as a commissioned pastor, be called to take his place. Pathway requests the assistance of classis in determining proper synodical guidelines to follow as they plan this transition. This is being referred to the Executive Team for review and action.

Article 16

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 17

DELEGATES TO SYNOD, 2020

Classis Grandville received nominations from the churches for delegates to synod, and chose the following individuals to serve as delegates and alternates:

MINISTER: Rev. Joe Vanden Akker (delegate)

Rev. Cedric Parsels (alternate)

ELDER: Jerry Sikkema (delegate)

DEACON: Wanda Kunzi (delegate)

OTHER: Katy Pastoor (delegate)

Rev. Cedric Parsels (alternate)

The Executive Team will seek additional alternates before the deadline of March 16.

Article 18

AUDIO SCRIPTURE MINISTRIES

Joshua Harrison described the work of Audio Scripture Ministries. Chairperson Dan Kinnas led classis in prayer for this ministry.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, JANUARY 23, 2020

Article 19

70 X 7 LIFE RECOVERY

Ben Rosa and Cheryl Wyma updated classis on the work of 70 X 7 Life Recovery. They work with 20-25 employers in the area. They are seeking mentors and churches to walk alongside of returning citizens. Rev. Kent Rottman led classis in prayer for this ministry.

Article 20

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Tim Bosscher outlined for classis the plans for building renovations and expansion at the denominational building on 28th Street.

Article 21

CONGREGATIONAL WORK PROJECT

The Hanley CRC delegates requested prayers for 17 members of their congregation (along with four others) who will be volunteering in Uganda February 13 -24.

Article 22

PRAISE TIME

Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg led classis in a time of worship prior to the evening session.

Article 23

SYNODICAL DEPUTY CONCURRENCE

The chairperson welcomed the following synodical deputies: Rev. Dave Spoelma (Classis Holland), Rev. Matt Palsrok (Classis Georgetown), Rev. Jerry Blom (Classis Grand Rapids North). **The synodical deputies concurred with the decision of Classis Grandville that Rev. Tom Groelsema be honorably released from the office of Minister of the Word in accordance with Church Order article 14b.** [see Article 4 above].

Article 24

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE JUNGSEONG (SAMUEL) KIM

- a. The candidate was introduced by Rev. Mark Stephenson.
- b. Chairperson Dan Kinnas led classis in prayer as the examination began.
- c. Rev. Kent Rottman examined Candidate Kim in subjects related to *practica*.
A motion was made and supported to proceed to the next area of the examination. ADOPTED.
- d. Rev. Hank Vlaardingerbroek reported favorably on the visit he made, along with Rev. Doug Fauble, to the morning worship service of the Hahn-In CRC on Sunday, January 12, 2020 when Candidate Kim preached on his assigned text of I Timothy 4 :6-16.
A motion was made and supported to proceed to the next area of the examination. ADOPTED. The synodical deputies concurred.
- e. Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg examined Candidate Kim on subjects related to his biblical and theological positions.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, JANUARY 23, 2020

- f. Classis entered executive session.
- g. **A motion was made and supported to admit Candidate Samuel Kim to the office of the Minister of the Word in the CRC.**
- h. Chairperson Dan Kinnas led classis in prayer for God's leading on its deliberations.
- i. Classis voted by ballot.
- j. **This motion to admit Candidate Samuel Kim to the office of Minister of the Word in the CRC was ADOPTED.**
The synodical deputies concurred with this decision.

Article 25

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Chairperson Kinnas congratulated Candidate Kim on successfully sustaining his examination. His ordination service is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, at the Hahn-In CRC. The classis meeting concluded with a circle of prayer for Samuel Kim and his family.

**Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:
Thursday, May 21 (time and place to be announced)**