

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Meeting at:

**First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church
Byron Center, Michigan**

Chairperson: Rev. Bob Huisman

Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Chairperson Rev. Bob Huisman opened the meeting by reading selected verses from Romans 16 and by leading in prayer.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following individuals were present (in person or on Zoom) as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First	*Ken Van De Griend	Steve Longstreet Bob Mast	
Friendship	Dan Kinnas	Clare Harkema	*Jon Bosma
Heritage	Bob Huisman	Dave Raak	*Roger Tiller
Pathway	Jim Heethuis	Larry Maas	
Second Dorr	Adam Nordyke	Greg Boer Mark Tehennepe Shaun O'Brien	
Grandville Fellowship	Tom Vander Ploeg	Paul Lubbers *Roger Visser	
Hanley Hope	Joe Vanden Akker	Dan Vander Ploeg Brian Boetsma Bill Vander Vennen	Brandon Kamps
Ivanrest		*John Tanja *Deb Door	Sue Van't Hof
South Grandville Wyoming	A. J. Gretz		
Calvary	Heather Strooboscher	*Lois Craven	Lance Griffioen

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Faith Community Hahn-In Hispana Emanuel Lee Street	Hank Vlaardingerbroek Samuel Kim Kent Rottman	*Tom Moelker Dave Veltkamp	*Jeff Metten Katy Pastoor
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*First-time delegates who stood to declare their agreement with the Covenant for Office-bearers

Note: Ivanrest CRC requests our prayers in their search for a new minister.

Article 3

INTRODUCTION OF DR. DAVID MURRAY

Mr. Steve Longstreet, President of the Council of First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church, described for delegates the search process that led their Council and congregation to call as their next pastor Dr. David Murray.

Article 4

INTRODUCTION OF SYNODICAL DEPUTIES

The stated clerk introduced the synodical deputies who were present for this meeting:

- Rev. Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North)
- Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East)\
- Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland)

Article 5

RECOMMENDATION FROM FIRST BYRON CENTER CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The First Christian Reformed Church of Byron Center brought the following motion:

To approve their job description for a commissioned pastor serving as the lead pastor at the First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church:

Grounds:

- a) **Though Article 24 of the Christian Reformed church order was written to address a different set of circumstances than those which present themselves in this situation, it does provide a way for a commissioned pastor to serve in a senior pastor role.**
- b) **The Candidacy Committee, which oversees the office of commissioned pastor and is the gateway for entrance into Christian Reformed ministry, is agreeable to this arrangement.**
- c) **The church order is silent on the matter of pastors from other denominations being loaned to a Christian Reformed Church (except in the case of the Reformed Church in America), though it does allow Christian Reformed ministers of the Word to be loaned to another denomination. Since that option is not available, this allows Classis**

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Grandville to pastorally address the convictions of First Byron Center CRC as they seek their next pastor.

- d) The First Byron Center CRC is fully committed to implementing all the prescribed requirements for the commissioned pastor position, and honor the expectations of the Christian Reformed Church as outlined in the Covenant for Officebearers in the CRC (2012).**

This motion was supported.

After a lengthy discussion Classis Grandville voted by ballot to ADOPT this motion.

The synodical deputies concurred with this decision and signed the following documents:

- 1) Church Order Article 23-a: Declaration that a Commissioned Pastor's Position Fits Synodical Guidelines.
- 2) Church Order Article 24-a: Service of a Commissioned Pastor in an Organized Church as Solo Pastor.

Article 6

LEARNING PLAN

A motion was made and supported to approve the learning plan for Dr. David Murray that was submitted by the council of First Byron Center CRC.

ADOPTED.

Article 7

CLOSING

Rev. Bob Huisman, chairperson, closed this session of Classis Grandville with prayer.

Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:

**Thursday, September 17, 2020 at the Heritage Christian Reformed Church
In Byron Center**