

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Meeting at:
First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church
Byron Center, Michigan

Chairperson: Pastor Jim Heethuis
Stated Clerk: Rev. Daniel Mouw

Article 1

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULED CHAIRPERSON

Due to an unexpected death in his family, Rev. Bob Huisman was not available to chair this meeting as planned. The Vice-chairperson, Pastor Jim Heethuis, chaired this meeting instead. The Vice-chairperson became Rev. Adam Nordyke.

Article 2

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Pastor Jim Heethuis, chairperson, began the meeting with reflections on Christian citizenship and with prayer.

Article 3

CREDENTIALS

The following individuals served as delegates, either in person or on Zoom:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		Steve Longstreet Dave Dornbos Robert Mast	
Friendship Heritage Pathway Second Dorr	Dan Kinnas Jim Heethuis Adam Nordyke Cedric Parsels	Kevin Lanning Dave Raak Larry Maas *Dave Van Ee Shaun O'Brien Mark TeHennepe	*Kyle Nyenhuis Brad Diekema
Grandville Fellowship Hanley Hope	Tom Vander Ploeg Joe Vanden Akker Dale Fopma	Paul Lubbers John De Haan Mark Oosterheert	Marcia Behrens Dale Van Kley

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Ivanrest		John Tanja	Sue Van't Hof
		*Steve Van't Hof	
South Grandville	A.J. Gretz	Brian Reed	*Diane Reed
Wyoming			
Calvary	Mark Van Drunen	Jill Meyer	Wanda Kunzi
Faith Community	Hank Vlaardingerbroek	Wes Norden	Jeff Metten
Hahn-In	Samuel Kim		
Hispana Emanuel			
Lee Street		Steve Waalkes	Katy Pastoor
		Don Van Woerkom	

*First-time delegates who stood to signify their agreement with the Covenant for Office-bearers

Article 4

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The delegates from Hope CRC were appointed as the credentials committee.

Article 5

EXAMINATION OF DR. DAVID MURRAY FOR COMMISSIONED PASTOR

- a. The sermon examiners, Rev. Tim Holwerda and Rev. Hank Vlaardingerbroek, gave a positive review of Dr. Murray's sermon on his assigned text of Ephesians 3:14-21, which was preached on Sunday, September 13, at the First Byron Center CRC (report on file).
- b. Rev. Adam Nordyke conducted an examination of Dr. Murray on his personal commitment to Christ, his understanding of Scripture, and his theological positions.
- c. **A motion was made and supported to approve Dr. David Murray's ordination as a commissioned pastor at the First Byron Center Christian Reformed Church. ADOPTED.**
- d. Prayers for Dr. Murray and First Byron Center CRC were led by Elder Robert Mast and Pastor Jim Heethuis.

Article 6

DIACONAL TEAM REPORT

Bernita Tuinenga, Executive Director of Volunteers in Service, introduced Suzanne Reinink, Director of Operations and Training for VIS. Bernita explained how VIS has adapted to the changed circumstances caused by Covid-19.

For one registration per church, church leaders will receive access to 3 TED Talk style videos, discussion guides and other resources during the month of October. Participants are then invited to engage with the speakers through a Zoom call on October 29 at 7:30 p.m.

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Article 7

COMMISSIONED PASTOR REQUIREMENTS FOR PATHWAY CRC

Pathway CRC is making plans for calling their Commissioned Pastor, Jim Heethuis, as their next lead pastor following the retirement of Rev. Steve Elzinga. The Executive Team brought the following recommendation:

That Pastor Jim Heethuis not be required to pursue an MDIV degree once he becomes lead pastor in light of his age and extensive ministry experience.

This motion was ADOPTED.

Article 8

RETIREMENT OF REV. KENT ROTTMAN

The following motion was moved and supported:

That Classis Grandville grant the request of the Council of the Lee Street CRC to approve the retirement, due to age, of their pastor, Rev. Kent Rottman, on November 2, 2020.

ADOPTED.

Rev. Adam Nordyke, on behalf of classis, publicly thanked Rev. Rottman for his devoted, humble, and faithful service to the Lee Street CRC and to Classis Grandville in his ministry of 21 years. Rev. Rottman expressed his gratitude for this opportunity to serve the Lord.

Article 9

RETIREMENT OF REV. ART SCHOONVELD AS PASTOR'S PASTOR

Classis noted the resignation letter from Rev. Schoonveld in the printed agenda following over ten years of service as Pastors' Pastor and expressed deep appreciation for his faithful work.

Article 10

COMMISSIONED PASTOR CANDIDATE STEVE WINKLE

The Ivanrest CRC presented its job description for Steve Winkle as a commissioned pastor in the role of Director of Community Connections and Outreach. Steve was introduced to the delegates and he shared with classis some of his ministry experiences.

A motion was made and supported to approve this job description as consistent with the role of commissioned pastor.

ADOPTED.

Note: This job description was previously reviewed and approved by synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East), Rev. Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North), and Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland).

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Article 11

ESTABLISHED CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT

Rev. Barb Sanders presented the following recommendation: **That following church visitor teams be appointed for two year terms beginning in September, 2020:**

Group A (First Byron Center, Faith Community, Dorr, Emanuel Hispanic, Ivanrest)

Rev. Bob Bolt (Heritage) and Rev. A.J. Gretz (South Grandville)

Group B (Second Byron Center, South Grandville, Lee Street, Pathway, Friendship, Heritage)

Rev. Ron Baker (Heritage) and Rev. Hank Vlaardingerbroek (Faith Community)

Group C (Calvary, Fellowship, Hahn-In, Hanley, Hope)

Rev. Duane Nieuwsma (Dorr) and Elder Paul Wassink (Ivanrest)

This motion was moved and supported. ADOPTED.

Article 12

STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Stewardship Team presented the proposed 2021 budget in the classical agenda.

A motion was made and supported to approve this budget as presented. ADOPTED.

Please note that the total budget for 2021 is \$107,799.20. The ministry share amount is \$25.78/member.

Article 13

CLASSIS TREASURER

Classic treasurer Terry Nyenhuis briefly commented on the latest quarterly financial report that had been sent previously to church councils.

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

ADOPTED.

Article 14

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT

No report.

Article 15

PRAYER TEAM REPORT

No report.

Article 16

PASTORS' PASTOR/REGIONAL PASTOR REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION

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Rev. Tim Holwerda, member of the Leadership Development Team, presented a recommendation prepared by Rev. Bob Huisman and himself for either a Regional Pastor or Co-Regional Pastors.

The recommendations were as follows:

- a. Change the name of the Classis Grandville position of Pastors' Pastor to Regional Pastor.
- b. Remuneration will be included in the annual Classis Grandville budget. If there are co-regional pastors, each will receive one half of the budgeted amount for the year.
- c. Allow this position to be filled by one or two persons.
- d. The Leadership Development Team will establish an interview team for this position who will make a recommendation to the Executive Team.

The details to this job description were sent to the councils within classis in an electronic mailing prior to this meeting.

A motion was made and supported to approve this job description with the above recommendations.

ADOPTED.

Article 17

CHURCH COUNSELOR REPORTS

Classis received a written report from Rev. Joel Boot, counselor for Ivanrest CRC, on the search committee progress of that congregation.

Rev. Dan Mouw reported that Dr. David Murray will be ordained as a commissioned pastor in the lead pastor position at First Byron Center CRC on Sunday, September 27.

Article 18

CHURCH VISITOR REPORTS

Church visitor Rev. Barb Sanders commented on a church visit to Pathway CRC on March 10, 2020. A written report from Rev. Doug Bouws and herself is in the printed agenda. Barb led classis in prayer for the ministries and pending transition at Pathway CRC.

Article 19

STATED CLERK REPORT

Rev. Dan Mouw reported as stated clerk. He noted the following:

- a. Councils will need to submit their proposed denominational ministry share contribution for 2021-2022 before the January meeting of classis.
- b. Rev. Israel Alvarado, who was previously approved for part-time chaplaincy in local hospitals, is now serving in full-time chaplaincy in the United States Navy.

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

ADOPTED.

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Article 20

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Dale Fopma reported the follow information noted on the credentials of the Dorr CRC:

“As the other churches in Classis Grandville are probably already aware, Neland Avenue CRC in Classis Grand Rapids East has ordained a same-sex married member to the diaconate. Our consistory (i.e. Elder’s Board) has sent a letter to Neland Avenue’s consistory calling upon them to repent and to disciple this erring sister back into a life of faithful discipleship. We will provide an update to Classis Grandville in January as to how Neland Avenue has responded to our letter. We ask for Classis’ prayers for us, for Neland Avenue CRC, and for the Christian Reformed Church”.

Rev. Fopma led classis in prayer for this situation.

Article 21

CLASSICAL RENEWAL TEAM

Rachel Bouwkamp presented the Classical Renewal Team’s latest draft for the re-structuring of Classis Grandville. This team plans to bring its final report to classis in January.

Article 22

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 23

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Rachel Bouwkamp reported on behalf of the Council of Delegates. She’ll be representing classis for the first time at the October meeting of the C.O.D.

Article 24

WORLD RENEW

No report.

Article 25

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Jim Heethuis led classis in closing prayer.

Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:

Thursday, January 21, 2021