**MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE**

**Thursday, April 15, 2021**

**Meeting at:**

**Pathway Christian Reformed Church**

**Byron Center, Michigan**

Chairperson: Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg

Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

OPENING PRAYER

Chairperson Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg opened the meeting by leading classis in prayer.

Article 2

CLASSICAL CREDENTIALS

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

CHURCHES MINISTERS ELDERS DEACONS

Byron Center

First Jerry Morren

Dick Norden

Scott Van Solkema

Friendship Dan Kinnas Kevin Lanning Jeff Talsma

Heritage Bob Huisman Jim Sytsma \*Mike Shear

Pathway Larry Maas

Jeff De Vries

Jim Van Leeuwen

Second Rob Dykhouse

Henke Porte

Dorr Cedric Parsels Benjamin Tjapkes

Grandville

Fellowship Tom Vander Ploeg Rog Visser Marcia Behrens

Hanley Joe Vanden Akker Dan Dykstra Dave Jongekrigt

Hope Dale Fopma Bob Vugteveen

Ivanrest \*Brandon Haan Marv De Vries Mark Klawiter

South Grandville A. J. Gretz Brian Reed Diane Reed

Wyoming

Calvary Jim Hop \*Joy Betten

Faith Community Roger Groenboom Steve Kerkstra Matt Kooiman

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Hahn In Samuel Kim

Hispana Emanuel

Lee Street Rog Haan Katy Pastoor

Scott Vredevoogd

\*First-time delegates who raised their hands to declare their agreement with

Covenant for Office-bearers.

Article 3

CHAIRPERSON AND WELCOME

Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg assumed the chair. Rev. Joe Vanden Akker served as vice-chairperson. The chairperson welcomed delegates and introduced the agenda for the evening. Rev. Brandon Haan was welcomed as the recently installed pastor at Ivanrest CRC.

Article 4

SYNODICAL DELEGATES PRESENT

Classis noted the following synodical deputies were present in person or on Zoom:

Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East)

Rev. Dave Spoelma (Classis Holland)

Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland)

Article 5

COMMISSIONED PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The following motion was moved and supported:

**The Executive Team of Classis Grandville recommends that Classis Grandville approve the commissioned pastor job description presented by Pathway CRC as consistent with the office of commissioned pastor as described in Article 23a of the Christian Reformed Church Order.**

**ADOPTED.**

The synodical deputies concurred with this decision.

[Note. The job description of Jordan Nickell was previously approved at the January, 2021 meeting of Classis Grandville].

Article 6

COMMISSIONED PASTOR IN A SENIOR LEADERSHIP POSITION

The following motion was moved and supported:

**The Executive Team of Classis Grandville recommends that Classis Grandville approve the request of Pathway CRC to examine Jim Heethuis for the office of commissioned pastor in a lead pastor role as described in Article 24a of the Christian Reformed Church Order.**

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Delegate Jeff De Vries from Pathway CRC gave delegates and synodical deputies a summation of Jim Heethuis’ ministry history with the Pathway congregation that led to this call for him to succeed Rev. Steve Elzinga as their senior pastor.

This motion was **ADOPTED.**

The synodical deputies concurred with this decision.

Article 7

STATED CLERK REPORT

The stated clerk reported that all the required documents for both candidates were submitted and were on file. Because Jim Heethuis is being called to a senior pastor position, he also furnished a favorable criminal background check and psychological evaluation.

Article 8

EXAMINATIONS OF JAMES HEETHUIS AND JORDAN NICKELL.

Rev. Dan Kinnas conducted examinations of both candidates concurrently. Delegates were given the opportunity to ask additional questions.

Article 9

VOTING

In executive session delegates discussed the following recommendations:

1. **That Jordan Nickell be approved to serve in the office of commissioned pastor as worship director of First Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center, Michigan.**
2. **That James Heethuis be approved to serve in the office of commissioned pastor in the senior/lead pastor position at the Pathway Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center, Michigan.**

By voice vote these two motions were **ADOPTED.**

Article 10

WORDS OF CONGRATULATION

Chairperson Tom Vander Ploeg informed the candidates of these favorable decisions and, giving thanks for their gifts for ministry, encouraged them in the work of ministry ahead of them. He presented them with classical diplomas.

Article 11

PRAYER

Rev. Bob Huisman led classis in a prayer of thanks and intercession for both candidates.

**Next meeting of Classis Grandville: Thursday, May 20, 2021**