

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Meeting at:
Friendship Christian Reformed Church
Byron Center, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Tom Groelsema
Stated Clerk: Rev. Daniel Mouw

Article 1

OPENING WORSHIP

Members of the Classical Renewal Team led opening worship. Rev. Tom VanderPloeg opened the meeting with prayer.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following individuals were present as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First	Tom Groelsema	Lee Lubbers Dave Dornbos	
Friendship Heritage Pathway Second Dorr	Dan Kinnas Bob Huisman Adam Nordyke Cedric Parsels	Dan Rignalda Dave Raak Dean Hubbard Harold Veltman *Randy Bosse Patrick Sicklesteel	*Stan Jansen Ron Rodenhouse Larry Maas
Grandville Fellowship Hanley Hope Ivanrest	Tom Vander Ploeg Joe Vanden Akker Dale Fopma	Dan Wynia *John De Haan Greg Sytsma *Paul Lanning *Kevin Ilbrink *Steve Zuiderveen	Mary Wood-Agents Harry Westra Mark Klawiter
South Grandville Wyoming Calvary Faith Community Hahn-In Hispana Emanuel	*A. J. Gretz Mark Van Drunen Roger Groenboom	*Jim Hop Ron Holtrop	Wanda Kunzi *Harry Rissley

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Lee Street

Kent Rottman

Roger Haan

*Katy Pastoor

#Dave Veltkamp

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

#Elder Dave Veltkamp replaced Kent Rottman during the evening session

Article 3

CLASSICAL OFFICERS

Rev. Tom Groelsema assumed the chair. Vice-chairperson was Rev. Dan Kinnas. The chairperson welcomed guests and reviewed the schedule for the afternoon and evening.

Article 4

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE MITCHELL SHEAHAN FOR THE OFFICE OF MINISTER OF THE WORD IN THE CRC.

- a. Rev. Adam Nordyke introduced Candidate Sheahan. The chairperson welcomed the synodical deputies: Rev. Ron Goudzwaard (Classis Thornapple Valley)
Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland)
Rev. Jerry Blom (Classis Grand Rapids North)
- b. The Second CRC of Byron Center called Candidate Sheahan to serve on loan to a Reformed Church in America church plant ('The Bridge Church') in Portage, Michigan. A motion was made and supported to approve this loan (for a period of two years, with the possibility of an extension when circumstances warrant). **ADOPTED.**

Rev. Jake Weeda, stated clerk of Classis Kalamazoo, informed the stated clerk that Classis Kalamazoo gave their approval to this loan during their meeting on September 10, 2019.

The synodical deputies deferred their approval, pending a successful examination of Candidate Sheahan.

- c. Rev. Joe Vanden Akker examined Candidate Sheahan in the area of *practica*. A motion was made and supported to proceed to the next area of inquiry. **ADOPTED.**
- d. Rev. Rog Groenboom reported on the sermon and worship leadership of Candidate Sheahan which Rev. Doug Fauble and he observed at the Second CRC of Byron Center on September 15, 2019. The candidate preached on his assigned text of Matthew 22:1-14.

A motion from the sermon examiners to approve this sermon and proceed to the next area of inquiry was supported and **ADOPTED.**

The synodical deputies concurred.

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- e. Rev. Tom Groelsema examined Candidate Sheahan on his biblical and theological position.
- f. A motion was made and supported to admit Candidate Sheahan to the office of Minister of the Word in the CRC.
Rev. Groelsema declared executive session and led classis in prayer.
Classis delegates voted by ballot and the motion to admit Candidate Sheahan to the office of Minister of the Word was **ADOPTED**.

The synodical deputies returned from their deliberations and concurred with this decision of classis. They also indicated that they concurred with the decision to loan Candidate Sheahan to the RCA church plant in Portage, Michigan, upon his ordination.

- g. Candidate Sheahan was warmly congratulated on his successful examination and the delegates surrounded him in a time of prayer.

Article 5

MISSIONARY INTRODUCTION

The Lee Street delegates introduced Jesse and Jari Rodriguez, members of their congregation who have been serving with Resonate Global Mission in Nicaragua since 2016. Their work with the Nehemiah Center is especially focused on stewardship and helping churches build a strong financial foundation.

The congregations of Classis Grandville are encouraged to consider giving them needed financial support for their ministry.

Article 6

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUPPORT

Steve Timmermans, CRC Executive Director, addressed classis about impending changes with respect to denominational ministry shares (“Ministry Shares Reimagined”), pending final approval by the 2020 synod.

Article 7

FAITH FORMATION

Laura Keeley distributed a packet of information about available denomination resources to assist congregations in faith formation. She is available as requested for consultations with local churches.

Article 8

70 X 7 LIFE RECOVERY

Cheryl Wyma updated classis on 70 X 7 Life Recovery and distributed information about how congregations can minister to inmates, to their families, and to returning citizens.

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Article 9

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Tim Bosscher, Classis Grandville's delegate to the Council of Delegates, informed classis about matters to be discussed in the upcoming meeting of the Council of Delegates.

Article 10

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

The Executive Team report in the printed agenda was received for information.

Article 11

ESTABLISHED CHURCH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Rev. Barb Sanders highlighted the new schedule for InterNos ministerial gatherings in the upcoming 2019-2020 church year.

Article 12

COMMUNITY IMPACT TEAM REPORT

Rev. Adam Nordyke brought a recommendation that both the Albanian Christian Ministry and Southwest Community Church once again receive an annual \$10,000 grant toward their ministries. This motion was supported and **ADOPTED**.

[Note: this financial support comes from the legacy fund of Rogers Heights CRC; \$60,000 remains unallocated].

Classis delegates viewed a presentation on the Albanian Christian Ministry. A book club for women and "ABC" school for Albanian children have expanded opportunities to share the gospel.

Delegates also viewed a video on the newly created "Grand Rapids Area Church Planting Initiative". The 5 Grand Rapids area classes (including Classis Grandville) are partnering together to create an integrated approach to church planting.

Article 13

STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Rog Groenboom presented the proposed 2020 classical budget in the printed agenda. A motion was made and supported to approve this budget. **ADOPTED**.

Article 14

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman is the new chairperson for this team.

A request for student fund support from Tisha Berkenpas was referred to the Executive Team for action.

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Article 15

PRAYER TEAM

Rev. Mark Van Drunen that a regional prayer summit is being considered.

Article 16

CLASSICAL DIACONAL TEAM

No report.

Article 17

REGIONAL PASTOR

No report.

Article 18

CHURCH COUNSELORS

No report.

Article 19

CHURCH VISITORS

No report.

Article 20

STATED CLERK REPORT

In addition to the written report in the printed agenda, the stated clerk report that he had just received the ministerial credentials of Rev. Moses Kang from the Hahn-In CRC. The Executive Team will endorse these credentials and forward them to Classis Toronto and the First CRC of Barrie, Ontario, to which Rev. Kang has accepted a call.

The delegates were reminded that Classis Grandville needs to choose its representative on the Council of Delegates. Names of interested persons can be submitted to the stated clerk.

In addition, churches are invited to suggest individuals who are interested in serving on the board of Calvin Theological Seminary (clergy), Calvin University (clergy or nonclergy), and the Judicial Code Committee (women and ethnically diverse persons without legal expertise).

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

Article 21

CLASSICAL TREASURER

The report of the classical treasurer, Terry Nyenhuis, was included in the printed agenda.

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

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Article 22

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The delegates from the Hope CRC served as the credentials committee. Credentials were in order and contained no notations.

Article 23

CLASSICAL RENEWAL TEAM

The classical renewal team will bring a progress report to the January classis meeting for reactions and discussion.

Article 24

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

Bryna Parsels, Safe Church Coordinator for Classis Grandville, provided delegates with a written report. Churches are encouraged to send members to the Advisory Panel Process Training on Saturday, October 19, at the denominational offices. The Classis Grandville Safe Church Team is meeting on October 22 at 7 p.m. at the Dorr CRC. Each congregation is urged to send its safe church representative to that meeting.

Article 25

REPORT OF DELEGATES TO SYNOD, 2019

Two of Classis Grandville's delegates, Mary Wood-Agents and Wanda Kunzi, shared many positive experiences as first-time delegates to synod.

Article 26

WORLD RENEW

No report

Article 27

CLOSING

Rev. Tom Groelsema, chairperson, closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting: January 16/23, 2020
Time and location to be determined.**