

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Meeting at:
Faith Community Christian Reformed Church
Wyoming, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Bob Huisman

Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

OPENING WORSHIP

A worship team led classis with songs, prayers and readings from Philippians 4.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following individuals served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		Bruce Langerak Dean Dornbos	
Friendship Heritage Pathway	Dan Kinnas Bob Huisman	Doug Vander Lee *Al Smith Jeff De Vries Jim Elzinga	*Mark Ouwinga Brad Diekema
Second Dorr	Cedric Parsels	Henk Porte Justin Helmholdt Shaun O'Brien	*Tom Koetje
Grandville Fellowship Hanley Hope Ivanrest South Grandville Wyoming	Tom Vander Ploeg Joe Vanden Akker Dale Fopma Brandon Haan	Paul Lubbers John De Haan Twyla Vander Lugt	Jon Meengs Nick Rozema Lynn Vanoostveen
Calvary Faith Community Hahn-In Hispana Emanuel Lee Street	Mark Van Drunen Roger Groenboom *Steve De Vries	*Shannon Grooters *Rick Katsma Harry Disselkoen	*Ruthanne Fletcher Brian Plowman *Mary Disselkoon

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

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

Article 3

CLASSIS IS CONSTITUTED

Rev. Bob Huisman assumed the chair. Rev. Dan Kinnas served as vice-chairperson. The chairperson welcomed visitors and introduced the agenda and timeframe for this evening session. The chairperson welcomed the new pastors of Lee Street CRC, Rev. Joel Van Dyke and Rev. Steve De Vries. He also welcomed CRC candidate Ram Aryal.

Article 4

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

The stated clerk reviewed the Executive Team report in the printed agenda. He also noted that the Executive Team meet on Zoom on September 7 and appointed the following persons as the oversight committee for Rev. A.J. Gretz (this was approved by Classis Grandville at a special meeting on August 31, 2021): Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg (convener), Rev. Dale Fopma, and Kathy Vanden Bosch (a deacon at South Grandville CRC).

Article 5

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Rev. Dan Kinnas gave an update on current church plants: Southwest Community Church and the Albanian Christian Ministry. Rev. Kinnas led classis in prayer for these emerging churches.

Article 6

HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM

Rev. Dale Fopma introduced Diane Dykgraaf, newly appointed Classis Grandville prayer coordinator and welcomed her to this important role in classis.

Rev. Fopma indicated that this team needs to appoint several new church visitors and also is seeking new members to join this team.

Article 7

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman reported that Classis Grandville is currently supporting three seminary students through its student fund.

Article 8

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Rev. Roger Groenboom presented a proposed 2022 budget for Classis Grandville. He noted that this proposal would be slightly reduced from the proposed budget in the printed agenda as one student has changed future ministry plans.

A motion was made and supported to approve the proposed 2022 budget as presented.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

A motion was then made and supported to amend this budget by removing a proposed grant of \$7000 for Bethany Christian Services. This motion was DEFEATED.

The motion to approve the proposed 2022 budget was ADOPTED (the final 2022 budget is attached).

Article 9

FAITH FORMATION

Laura Keeley, regional representative for CRC Faith Formation ministries, distributed current Faith Formation resources to each congregation. She is available upon request (at no cost) to meet with and share ideas with the educational leadership in local congregations. Churches are encouraged to log on to the denominational website for more information.

Article 10

MINISTRY SHARES

Jeffrey Bolt, U.S. Advancement Director, spoke to delegates and told stories about ways in which ministry share giving, with God's blessing, is impacting lives around the world for Christ. He encouraged delegates and churches to learn much more on the denominational website on ministry shares.

Churches will be asked to submit their ministry share pledges for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 by early January (sooner if possible) to the stated clerk or classical treasurer. Councils are encouraged to consider a percentage increase in support of these life-changing ministries.

Article 11

CLASSICAL DIACONAL MINISTRY

No report.

Article 12

REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Kent Rottman updated classis on his ministry to the pastors and churches of Classis Grandville. He especially called attention to the prevalent instances of abuse of power within the broader church.

Article 13

CHURCH COUNSELORS

Rev. Bob Huisman, counselor for Second Byron Center CRC, reported that this council is in the early stages of their search for their next pastor.

Rev. Rog Groenboom, counselor for Lee Street CRC, shared the joyful news that on Sunday, September 12, Rev. Steve De Vries and Rev. Joel Van Dyke were installed as Lee Street's next pastors.

South Grandville CRC hasn't as yet requested a counselor following their recent pastoral vacancy.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Article 14

CHURCH VISITOR REPORTS

None.

Article 15

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

The oversight committee for Calvary CRC, Rev. Kent Rottman, Rev. Doug Fauble, and Rev. Rog Groenboom, recommended that the work of the Calvary CRC Oversight Committee be finished (their report, including the rationale for this recommendation, is available in the classical agenda).

A motion was made and supported to declare that the work of the Calvary CRC oversight committee has been completed. ADOPTED.

The chairperson expressed thanks to God for the grace that is flowing at Calvary CRC.

Article 16

STATED CLERK REPORT

The stated clerk directed the attention of the delegates to two requests in the stated clerk report:

- (a) Received a request from Rev. Tony Meyer and the Ivanrest CRC that his 'pastor on loan' status be renewed for two more years as he serves in the Mountainview International Church in Madrid, Spain.

A motion was made and supported to approve this request. ADOPTED.

Synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East), Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland) and Rev. Jeffery Scripps (Classis Georgetown) concurred with this decision.

- (b) Received a request from Rev. Mitch Sheehan and the Second Byron Center CRC that his 'pastor on loan' status be renewed for two more years as he serves the Bridge Church in Portage, Michigan (RCA).

A motion was made and supported to approve this request. ADOPTED.

Synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East), Rev. Stephen Terpstra (Classis Zeeland) and Rev. Jeffery Scripps (Classis Georgetown) concurred with this decision.

The stated clerk reported that Classis Grandville has processed the following ministerial credentials:

Rev. Heather Strooboscher from the Calvary CRC in Wyoming to Classis Grand Rapids North and the Creston CRC.

Rev. Joel Van Dyke from the Maranatha CRC in Holland, Michigan and from Classis Holland to the Lee Street CRC in Wyoming.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Rev. Steve De Vries from the Plymouth Heights CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Classis Grand Rapids East to the Lee Street CRC in Wyoming.

The stated clerk informed classis of the need for two new members for the denominational Judicial Code Committee, one clergy and one non-ordained person (no legal training required). Please contact the stated clerk if interested for the needed application forms.

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

Article 17

CLASSICAL TREASURER

Treasurer Leon De Lange updated classis on its most recent ministry share giving.

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

Article 18

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

None of the credentials contained any additional comments or requests.

Article 19

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 20

OUR JOURNEY 2025

Amy Schenkel (Resonate) and Carla Bieber (Regional Connector) presented the four milestones in "Our Journey 2025" and distributed information for delegates to bring back to their local congregations. Councils are requested to review and discuss this vision for the CRC that includes: cultivating prayer and spiritual disciplines, listening to the voices of all generations, growth in both diversity and unity, and sharing the gospel across cultures with neighbors and newcomers.

Each congregation is encouraged to consider purchasing and utilizing the "Conversation Card Deck". A sample was given to each church at the meeting.

Article 21

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Rachel Bouwkamp, Council of Delegates representative from Classis Grandville, updated classis on the work of the COD and answered questions. She requested prayers for church leaders in these challenging times.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Article 22

CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

Rev. Bob Huisman encouraged delegates to contact him for more information about the next opportunity for their congregations to participate in the Church Renewal Lab.

Article 23

The chairperson thanked the delegates for their participation and the Faith Community CRC for its hospitality. He closed this meeting with prayer.

Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Approved 2022 Budget for Classis Grandville

Active Professing Members Classis Grandville

according to denomination (2020 & 2021):

4182

4135

Executive Team (ET)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The ET has funds available as of 7/31 :</i>	\$2,370.55	
Compensation for Stated Clerk	\$4,422.68	\$4,511.13
Compensation for Classical Treasurer	\$3,946.59	\$4,025.52
Compensation for Regional Pastor	\$5,744.32	\$5,859.21
Compensation for Comm. Engagement Team Leader	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Compensation for Healthy Church Team Leader	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Compensation for Leadership Team Leader	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Compensation for Stewardship Team Leader	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Compensation for Safe Church Team Coordinator	\$1,560.60	\$1,591.81
Printing and Postage	\$800.00	\$800.00
Meetings - Executive Team	\$700.00	\$700.00
Meetings - Regional Pastor	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Volunteers in Service Contract (12 months)	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Annual Financial Review	\$425.00	\$425.00
Classis Meetings Hospitality	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00

Total	\$35,299.19 \cong \$8.44 /mem	\$35,612.67 \cong \$8.61 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	0.89% 2.03%

Safe Church Team (SCT)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The SCT has funds available as of 7/31:</i>	\$1,043.41	

Total	\$0.00 \cong \$0.00 /mem	\$0.00 \cong \$0.00 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	

Leadership Development Team (LDT)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The LDT has funds available as of 7/31 :</i>	\$7,229.27	
Student Support:		
Tisha Berkenpas Southwest Community	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Joel Haan First Byron	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Josiah Huisman Heritage	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
David Kerkstra First Byron	n/a	\$5,000.00
Leadership Initiatives	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Total	\$8,000.00 \cong \$1.91 /mem	\$14,000.00 \cong \$3.39 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	75.00% 76.99%

Prayer Team (PT)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The PT has funds available as of 7/31 :</i>	\$4,761.03	
Training/Hospitality Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Prayer Coordinator	\$0.00	\$750.00
Total	\$0.00 \cong \$0.00 /mem	\$750.00 \cong \$0.18 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	

Community Engagement Team (COET)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The COET has funds available as of 7/31 :</i>	\$45,188.85	
Church Plant Support	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total	\$10,000.00 \cong \$2.39 /mem	\$10,000.00 \cong \$2.42 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	

Healthy Church Team (HCT)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The HCT has funds available as of 7/31:</i>	\$1,736.58	
General	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retreats	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00 \cong \$0.00 /mem	\$0.00 \cong \$0.00 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	

Stewardship Team (ST)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<i>The ST has funds available as of 7/31 :</i>	\$412.89	
Meetings	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total	\$0.00 \cong \$0.00 /mem	\$100.00 \cong \$0.02 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	

Grant Review Team (GRT)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	2022
		<u>GRT proposal</u>	Requested
<i>Para-Church ministries:</i>			
Refugee Resettlement Program - Bethany Chr. Svcs.	\$5,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$10,000.00
Volunteers in Service	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
70x7 Life Recovery <i>fka</i> Criminal Justice Chaplaincy	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Celebration Fellowship CRC Prison Cong.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Campus Ministry @ GVSU	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Project Hope	\$3,500.00	did not apply	did not apply
West MI Friendship Center	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Crossroads Prison Ministries	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
Grandville Friendship Homes	\$5,000.00	did not apply	did not apply
Family Network of Wyoming	did not apply	\$8,000.00	\$16,000.00
<i>Classis Grandville churches:</i>			
Calvary CRC -After School Drop-In Center	\$5,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total	\$44,500.00 \cong \$10.64 /mem	\$48,500.00 \cong \$11.73 /mem	
	incr. or decr. from last year =>		

Crisis Relief

Crisis Relief has funds available as of 7/31:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
	\$0.00	
	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

Total	\$10,000.00 ≅ \$2.39 /mem	\$10,000.00 ≅ \$2.42 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	0.00% 1.14%

Grand Total for all Classical Ministries	\$107,799.19 ≅ \$25.78 /mem	\$118,962.67 ≅ \$28.77 /mem
	incr. or decr. from last year =>	10.36% 11.61%

Approved Budget for 2022:	\$118,962.67 Grand Total
	4135 Total Members
	\$28.77 Per/Mem Ministry Share

Some churches do not participate in classical ministry shares.
 Some churches do not participate at 100%.
 For first half of 2021, Ministry Share receipts came in at 63.6%
 of what was expected for those two quarters.
 Reductions, if necessary, begin with Classis GRT grants.