

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Meeting at:
Calvary Christian Reformed Church
Wyoming, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Bob Huisman
Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

WELCOME

Rev. Mark Van Drunen, pastor at Calvary CRC, welcomed the delegates to this meeting.

Article 2

OPENING WORSHIP

Diane Dykgraaf, classical prayer coordinator, along with Rev. Dale Fopma and Rev. Dan Kinnas, led classis in a time of worship, including singing, Scripture readings, and group prayers. Classis prayed specifically for the delegates and alternate delegates to the 2022 synod.

Article 3

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Rev. Bob Huisman, chairperson, welcomed visitors and reviewed the schedule for the day.

Article 4

CREDENTIALS

The following individuals served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		Dean Doornbos Steve Longstreet	
Friendship Heritage Pathway Second Dorr	Dan Kinnas Bob Huisman Jim Heethuis Cedric Parsels	*Rick Jongsma Jeff De Vries Mark Westrate Randy Bosse *Glenn Kuperus	Scott Tiemeyer Brad Diekema *Kevin Heyboer

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CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Grandville Fellowship	Barb Sanders	Rog Visser	
Hanley	Joe Vanden Akker	Steve Broersma	*Tim Hoffman
Hope	Dale Fopma	Kirk Riddering Mark Oosterheert	
Ivanrest	Brandon Haan	Ruth Vander Heide	Barb Lutke
South Grandville	*Will Henson	Jim Hoekstra	*James Toebe
Wyoming			
Calvary	Mark Van Drunen	*Mark Elders	Joy Betten
Faith Community	Rog Groenboom	*Henry Bouman	*Daran Deemter
Hahn-In	Samuel Kim		
Hispana Emanuel			
Lee Street	Steve De Vries	Jerry Sikkema	Katie Pastoor

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

Article 5

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

A motion was made and supported to ratify the earlier approval of the Executive Team of the retirement of Rev. Steve Elzinga as of December 31, 2021, for reason of age.

ADOPTED.

Article 6

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM REPORT

Rev. Dan Kinnas, chairperson, read an update on the ministry of Southwest Community Church from Rev. Allan Pontarelli. This church plant is working closely with a Spanish language ministry in their community, and also is partnering in sponsoring a refugee family made up of a widow with six children.

Article 7

HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM REPORT

Rev. Dale Fopma expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of classical prayer coordinator Diane Dykgraaf. The Healthy Church Team has also appreciated the help of Rev. Kent Rottman, Rev. Doug Fauble, and Rev. Roger Visker in assisting the congregations within classis.

InterNos will meet on Tuesday, May 24, at Panera Bread.

Diane encouraged delegates who haven't yet done so to sign up for "40 Days of Prayer", a daily devotional email from the denomination in preparation for Synod, 2022. Delegates were invited to pick up prayer request sheets at the close of the meeting.

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Article 8

STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Rog Groenboom, chairperson, reminded delegates that the deadline for applying for a 2023 classical grant was the following day, May 20. The total grants for 2023 will be capped at \$50,000.

Article 9

FAMILY NETWORK OF WYOMING

Raycheen Sims, Executive Director, thanked classis for its support of Family Network of Wyoming. 50-60 volunteers help enable this ministry to serve 300 – 400 families every month.

Article 10

CAMPUS MINISTRY AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Rev. Scott Stark expressed appreciation for the current grant which is helping to develop student leaders at GVSU. 1000 students are involved with this ministry – not just as recipients but participants.

Chairperson Bob Huisman lead classis in prayer for Family Network and the campus ministry at GVSU.

Article 11

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman reported that this team is exploring ways to provide leadership growth opportunities for church leaders in Classis Grandville.

Article 12

REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Kent Rottman, regional pastor, encouraged councils to practice mutual censure regularly; guidelines were available to be picked up by delegates after this meeting.

Rev. Rottman is in dialogue with Rev. Mark Van Drunen to facilitate a discussion on how to pastor members of our congregations with same-sex attraction. More information about a future conversation about this among church leaders will be forthcoming after synod.

Rev. Rottman reported that Rev. Samuel Kim, from the Hahn-CRC, will be beginning to serve a Korean Presbyterian congregation in Battle Creek, Michigan. Immigration matters will need to be processed and completed first before a formal call can be issued and accepted. Rev. Kim intends to keep his ministerial credentials in the CRC and wishes to be loaned to this congregation once his immigration status is finalized.

Article 13

CHURCH COUNSELOR REPORTS

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Second CRC in Byron Center – Rev. Bob Huisman reported that Second CRC is in the interview stage with several prospective pastors.

Hahn-In CRC – in a written communication Rev. Bryce Mensink reported that the interim pastor, Rev. Christian Oh, will be concluding his work at Hahn-In CRC at the end of June. A candidate will be preaching and meeting with the congregation on Sunday, May 22.

South Grandville CRC – Rev. Rog Groenboom, counselor, reported that the search committee is beginning to review applications for their pastoral position.

Article 14

CHURCH VISITOR REPORTS

No reports.

Article 15

OVERSIGHT TEAM FOR REV. A. J. GRETZ

No report.

Article 16

ALTERNATE CLASSICAL TREASURER

This position still needs to be filled. Councils are encouraged to suggest names of individuals with financial expertise.

Article 17

HOPE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH COMMUNICATION

Rev. Dale Fopma added comments to the letter in the printed agenda from Hope CRC to classis. He expressed deep appreciation for the support of neighboring congregations through the painful process of preparing to disband Hope CRC. A congregational vote to formally approve this action is upcoming; following that decisions will need to be finalized as to the distribution of Hope CRC's assets (this will take place in consultation with classis).

Rev. Will Henson led classis in prayer for Hope CRC, with delegates surrounding the Hope delegates.

Article 18

REPORT FROM CARLA BIEBER

Carla Bieber updated classis on denominational resources. A virtual discussion group on the book How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going is being planned.

Article 19

STATED CLERK REPORT

The stated clerk reviewed the report in the printed agenda. Additional copies of the Classis Grandville Handbook, adopted in January, 2021, are available on request.

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

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Article 20

CLASSICAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Classical treasurer Leon De Lange distributed and presented the first quarter financial report for February, March and April, 2022. He encouraged councils that have not yet done so to submit their classical giving commitment amount to him for the remainder of this fiscal year (through January 31, 2023).

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

Article 21

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The credentials committee, the delegates from Lee Street CRC, were asked to report. There was one notation on the credentials from Pathway CRC: "Is there financial assistance available for remodel of our community room?" They will approach the Stewardship Team about a possible grant.

Article 22

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 23

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

No report. Rachel Bouwkamp was ill.

Article 24

WORLD RENEW

Marc Faasse presented a new video from World Renew, and he emphasized the need for recurring gifts.

Article 25

SPECIAL MEETING OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Rev. Brandon Haan informed classis that on Thursday, August 11, at a special meeting of Classis Grandville, examinations are scheduled for two members of Ivanrest CRC:

Nate Rusticus – for the office of commissioned pastor

Renee Aupperlee – for licensure to exhort

Article 26

ADJOURNMENT

Classis was declare adjourned. Delegates concluded by singing the doxology.

Next scheduled meetings of Classis Grandville:

Thursday, August 11, 2022 (special meeting)

Thursday, September 15, 2022 (regular meeting)