

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Meeting at:
South Grandville Christian Reformed Church
Grandville, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Dan Kinnas

Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

OPENING WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by Diane Dykgraaf, classical prayer coordinator, Will Henson, interim pastor at South Grandville CRC, and Rachel Bouwkamp, classical COD delegate. Worship included singing, Scripture readings from Philipians 1 and Romans 15, and circles of prayer.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following persons served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		*Mike Broekhuis Steve Longstreet Steve Snyder	
Friendship	Dan Kinnas	*Dan Woltjer	Justin Reimink
Heritage		Jon Diekema	Brad Diekema
Pathway	Jim Heethuis	Ezra Heethuis	
Second	*Rick Vanderwal	Pete De Vries	Tom Mulder
Dorr	Cedric Parsels	Jim Bosse	Matthew Seif
Grandville			
Fellowship	Tom Vander Ploeg	Shelly Funk	Nancy Emelander
Hanley	Joe Vanden Akker	Steve Broersma	Dale Van Kley
Ivanrest	Brandon Haan	Ruth Carr	Jim Heyboer
South Grandville	Will Henson	*Rog Grit	Carl Wierenga
Wyoming			
Calvary	Mark Van Drunen	Roger Visker	*Brad Kuiper
Faith Community	Rog Groenboom	Arnie Toonstra	Andrew Postma
Hahn-In	*Kyung Phil Kim	Charles Lee	
Hispana Emanuel			

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Lee Street

Joel Van Dyke

Mark Groenenboom

*Seth ten Broeke

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

Article 3

CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson for this meeting was Rev. Dan Kinnas.

Article 4

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The chairperson welcomed delegates and guests. In addition to guest speakers, he introduced Laura Keeley from Faith Formation ministries, Rev. Samuel Kim, and the new pastors at Hahn-In CRC and Second Byron Center CRC.

Article 5

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

The chairperson outlined the agenda for this evening meeting and appointed the delegates from the Fellowship CRC to serve as the Credentials Committee.

Article 6

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

- a) The following motion was presented by the Executive Team:
That Classis Grandville approve a newly issued call to Rev. Mitch Sheahan from the Second Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center and loan to the Bridge Church in Portage, Michigan. [The Bridge Church recently left the Reformed Church in America and has joined the Kingdom Network. Rev. Sheahan is serving as a church planter].

This motion was moved and supported. ADOPTED.

Synodical deputies Rev. George Vink (Classis Grand Rapids South), Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East), and Rev. Dave Spoelma (Classis Holland) concurred with this decision.

- b) The recommendation from the Executive Team was moved and supported:
That Rev. Kyunghil (Phil) Kim enroll in the Korean Institute of Ministry (KIM) program as the path to ordained ministry as Minister of the Word in the Christian Reformed Church.
ADOPTED.

Article 7

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

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Rev. Dan Kinnas informed the delegates that the main church planting support in Classis Grandville currently is dedicated to the Albanian Christian Ministry. An introduction to micro churches is being planned for March 14; information will be sent to the churches.

Article 8

HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 9

STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Rog Groenboom reported that classical grant applications for the 2024 budget will be made available in late March.

The following motion was moved and supported:

That Classis Grandville grant to the Hahn-In CRC, out of its Crisis Relief budget line item, an amount of \$2500 with the expectation that this will be use to help with the cost of Rev. Kyunghil Kim's pension and FICA expense in 2023 and that Hahn-In will work to meet the remainder of that expense.

ADOPTED.

[Note: Work visa requirements will be addressed satisfactorily first before this grant is given.]

Article 10

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

No report.

Article 11

STATED CLERK REPORT

The stated clerk reported the following matters in addition to the report in the printed agenda:

- a) World Renew requests that all future correspondence and support for World Renew be sent to this address: World Renew
8970 Byron Commerce Dr., SW
Byron Center, MI 49315-7400
- b) The following motion was made and supported:
That Mr. Douglas Hossink, an accountant who is a member of the First Byron Center CRC, be appointed assistant classical treasurer.
ADOPTED.
- c) The stated clerk noted that the ministerial credentials of Rev. Dale Fopma are now being held by the South Grandville CRC.

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

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Article 12

CLASSICAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Classical treasurer Leon De Lange distributed to the delegates a current financial statement. He also noted the several churches still need to submit to him, by January 31, their denominational ministry pledge for the fiscal year of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Article 13

DAFFODIL MINISTRIES

Art Opperwall and Rev. Mark Drunen introduced classis to Daffodil Ministries, the mission of which is to “provide affordable transitional and permanent housing, along with supportive relationships and services, to individuals and families in our community who have experienced domestic violence and who are seeking a fresh start.”

They are seeking broad community support from churches and businesses. A duplex has been purchased and is currently being renovated.

Rev. Van Drunen led classis in prayer for this ministry.

Article 14

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES (COD)

Rachel Bouwkamp, Classis Grandville's delegate to the COD, shared the following:

- a) She thanked churches who responded to her request for membership trends.
- b) She noted that the COD plans to recommend to Synod 2023 to discontinue providing an approved list of ministry organizations to support.
- c) Ministry shares will be discussed at the February COD meeting.

Article 15

WORLD RENEW

No report.

Article 16

CALVIN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board delegate Carolyn Van Allen introduced herself to classis and updated delegates on recent developments at Calvin University, including a new president and a new football program. Greg Elzinga, Vice President for Advancement, also addressed classis briefly.

Rev. Dan Kinnas led classis in prayer for Calvin University.

Article 17

REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Kent Rottman reported that he is meeting regularly with pastors and is always available when needed.

Article 18

CLASSICAL DIACONAL MINISTRY

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Bernita Tuininga was present as a representative from Volunteers in Services.

Article 19

CHURCH COUNSELORS

Second Byron Center CRC (Rev. Bob Huisman) – Second Byron Center CRC has welcomed and is thankful to God for their new pastor, Rev. Rick Vanderwal, who was installed on Sunday, January 15.

South Grandville CRC (Rev. Rog Groenboom) – Their search committee continues its diligent work.

Hahn-In CRC (Rev. Bryce Mensink) – In a written report, Rev. Mensink announced the Rev. Kyungphil (Phil) Kim is now serving Hahn-In as their senior pastor. He is currently an ordained minister of the Word in the Korean Presbyterian Church. The ecclesiastical process is underway to eventually install Rev. Kim as a CRC minister of the Word, called to serve Hahn-In Church.

Ivanrest CRC – The stated clerk reported that, at the request of the Executive Team, he signed Ivanrest CRC's letter of call to Rev. Lorie Jonkman, an ordained minister in the Reformed Church of America, to a part time pastoral care position at their church. Rev. Jonkman has accepted this call.

Article 20

CHURCH VISITORS

No report.

Article 21

OVERSIGHT TEAM FOR REV. A. J. GRETZ

Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg reported that Rev. Gretz has expressed to him his intention to step away from ordained ministry in the CRC. The necessary ecclesiastical process will be implemented and reported to classis for its approval at a later meeting.

Article 22

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The delegates from Fellowship CRC reported the following notations on the credentials:

Hahn-In CRC

“Community outreach”.

Hanley CRC

“Synod 2023 nominee: Pastor Joe Vanden Akker”.

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Dorr CRC

“Our Council nominates Rev. Cedric Parsels to serve as a synodical delegate to Synod 2023.”

“We would like to draw Classis Grandville’s attention to the fact that we delegated a deacon to classis. In doing so, we are not suggesting that we have changed our minds about whether deacons may rightly serve as delegates to classis or Synod. We do not believe that the CRC’s current practice of delegating deacons to classis and synod is in keeping with ‘the spiritual order that our Lord has taught us in his Word’ (*Belgic Confession, Article 30*). Nevertheless we recognize (1) that we have vowed that we would ‘submit to the government and discipline of the church.’ (2) that ‘the decisions of the assemblies shall be considered settled and binding, unless it is proved that they conflict with the Word of God or the Church Order’ (*Church Order, Article 29*), and (3) that matters of church government are of a lower, secondary – or even tertiary – doctrinal status. Therefore, until such time as we can persuade the church that it ought to change the CRC’s policy with regard to delegating deacons, we shall abide by Synod’s decision.”

Calvary CRC

“We are writing to request that some measures be put in place regarding our process of selecting delegates to Synod. Synod is meant to be a deliberative body, meaning that our delegates to Synod are not delegated to simply represent the perspectives and viewpoint of their classis or their local congregation. Rather, they are delegated to deliberate together so that we can discern the wisdom and will of the Spirit together as a denomination.

“At last year’s Synod, it seemed evident that a number of delegates were associated with a group that was arguing for a conservative decision regarding the HSR study committee. It seems like this was the result of an organized effort before and during Synod that included a focus on nominating and sending delegates to Synod who would vote in a certain way. We believe that this subverts the deliberative nature of Synod and is contradictory to our church order.

“This year, we are aware of efforts from both sides of this issue to send delegates to Synod who are committed to arguing and voting from one perspective or the other. We believe it would be helpful to acknowledge this reality and take steps to ensure that all of our delegates are committed to the deliberative process in all matters and have not made any promises or commitments to any group, spoken or implied, to argue or vote for a particular perspective. Our thought is that this dynamic could be noted and each delegate could be asked this question specifically as a condition of their delegation. Essentially, we would be asking them if they are committed to following our church order regarding the deliberative nature of Synod.

“Thank you for your consideration of this matter.”

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A motion to take up this recommendation from Calvary CRC was made and supported, but later withdrawn. The Executive Team was directed to consider this request and, if it chooses, to bring recommendations back to classis.

Article 23

ELECTION OF SYNODICAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

The following individuals were elected to serve as delegates and alternates:

Minister delegate – Rev. Brandon Haan; Minister alternate – Rev. Joe Vanden Akker

Elder delegate – Steve Longstreet; Elder alternate – Ruth Carr

Deacon delegate – Jim Heyboer; Deacon alternate – Brad Diekema

At large delegate – Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg; At large alternate – Rev. Cedric Parsels

Article 24

OVERTURE FROM THE DORR CRC (complete overture in the printed agenda)

The Council of Dorr Christian Reformed Church overtured Classis to overture Synod 2023 to:

- a) Amend the Supplement to Church Order Article 5 B**
- b) Instruct the General Secretary to correct the guidance given on the denominational website regarding confessional-difficulty gravamina so that it accords with the decisions of Synod 2023**
- c) Instruct the General Secretary to send a letter to every council (a) explaining that a mistake was made in the original online advice given to churches and (b) informing them of the decisions of Synod 2023 with regard to confessional-difficulty gravamina.**

This overture was moved and supported.

ADOPTED.

Note: The stated clerk will forward the complete overture to the Office of Synodical Services to include in the printed agenda for Synod, 2023.

Article 25

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Dan Kinnas concluded this session of Classis Grandville with a closing prayer.

**Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:
Thursday, May 18, 2023**