

# MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Meeting at:  
Crossroads Prison Ministry  
Kentwood, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Rog Groenboom  
Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

## Article 1

### OPENING WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by Diane Dykgraaf, classical prayer coordinator, and Rev. Rog Groenboom, centering on the theme: "Holy, Holy, Holy". Delegates prayed individually for the Lord's blessing on the congregations within classis and for the leadership of the Christian Reformed denomination.

## Article 2

### CREDENTIALS

The following office-bearers served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		*Jim Bos Mike Broekhuis	
Friendship	Dan Kinnas	John Huizenga	*Alex Haan
Heritage	Bob Huisman	Jon Diekema	*Ben Quist
Pathway	Jim Heethuis	Joe Seif	
Second		*Ben Pitsch	
Dorr	Cedric Parsels	Mark TeHennepe	*Nolan Helmholdt
Grandville			
Fellowship	Tom Vander Ploeg	Bruce Morren	*Kathy Kikkert
Hanley	Joe Vanden Akker	Pete Bottema	*Pete Haverkamp
Ivanrest	Brandon Haan	*Randy Goodyke	Jim Heyboer
South Grandville	*Rod Galindo	*Mike Besteman	Sue Pipping
Wyoming			
Calvary	Mark Van Drunen	Shirley De Lange	Katie Elders
Faith Community	Rog Groenboom	Lorin Bossenbroek	*Cade Young
Hahn-In			
Hispana Emanuel			
Lee Street	Steve De Vries	David Bouwkamp	Carol tenHaaf

## MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

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

#### Article 3

##### CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson for this meeting was Rev. Rog Groenboom. Vice-chairperson was Rev. Dan Kinnas

#### Article 4

##### WELCOME

The chairperson welcomed delegates and guests. Non-delegates in attendance included: Bernita Tuinenga, Bev Abma, Byrna Parsels, Rev. Matt Slack, Rev. Ron Baker, Rachel Bouwkamp, Laura Keeley, Seminarian Kang Heo, Rev. Kent Rottman and Leon De Lange.

#### Article 5

##### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The chairperson appointed the delegates from Heritage CRC to serve as the credentials committee.

#### Article 6

##### CROSSROADS PRISON MINISTRY

Wendy Hammond, along with other staff members of Crossroads, welcomed the delegates to this meeting in their facility. Crossroads' ministry has been ongoing for 40 years. Crossroads invites congregational members to participate in their correspondence mentorship program. They can be contacted at [partner@cpministries.org](mailto:partner@cpministries.org) or 800-668-2450. Delegates were invited to tour the facility later during the coffee break.

#### Article 7

##### SAFE CHURCH TEAM

Bryna Parsels, Classis Grandville's Safe Church Team coordinator, updated classis on this ministry. Denominationally, Safe Church Ministries is now included under Thrive. She noted that one in three women, and one in six men, have experienced abuse, and that most cases of abuse are not disclosed. She reviewed Code of Conduct items especially pertaining to abuse issues, in particular "Safety" and "Pastoral Leadership". Bryna welcomed churches to contact her with questions and concerns. She can be reached at [grandvillesafechurch@gmail.com](mailto:grandvillesafechurch@gmail.com) or (616) 209-2866.

#### Article 8

##### OVERSIGHT TEAM FOR REV. A. J. GRETZ

Oversight Team chairperson, Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg, presented the following oversight team recommendations to classis that were included in a supplemental mailing:

## MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

- 1) That Classis Grandville declare AJ Gretz to be released from the office of Minister of the Word in the CRCNA per CO article 14c.
- 2) That Classis Grandville recommend a Vocational Assessment would be necessary in the event that AJ ever feels called to return to ordained ministry in the CRCNA.

Recommendation #1 was moved and supported.

Strict executive session was declared when this recommendation was discussed.

The following motion was made and supported:

**That this matter be referred back to the Oversight Team in order for them to take into consideration new information received at this classis meeting, and the Oversight Team be mandated to report back with recommendations to the January, 2024 meeting of Classis Grandville.**

**ADOPTED.**

This discussion concluded with a time of prayer. The chairperson declared an end to strict executive session.

### Article 9

#### EXTENSION OF THE LOAN OF REV. TONY MEYER'S MINISTRY

The council of Ivanrest CRC requested, according to Church Order Article 13-c and its Supplement, that Classis Grandville approve a two-year extension of Rev. Tony Meyer's ministerial service at Mountainview International Church in Madrid Spain.

The following motion was made and supported:

**That Classis Grandville approve a two-year extension of the loan of Rev. Tony Meyer to the Mountainview International Church in Madrid Spain.**

**ADOPTED.**

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

### Article 10

#### RESONATE

Rev. Scott Stark, newly appointed regional mission leader for the Great Lakes Region of Resonate Global Mission, introduced himself to the delegates and thanked classis for its missionary support both locally and globally.

### Article 11

#### REV. MATTHEW SLACK

## **CLASSIS GRANDVILLE MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

Rev. Matt Slack introduced himself to classis. He, along with his wife Emily and daughter, are committed to missionary service with Resonate Global Mission in Istanbul, Turkey. He is seeking prayer support and financial support as they prepare for their work. Churches are encouraged to contact him at [mslack@crcna.org](mailto:mslack@crcna.org)

### Article 12

#### WORLD RENEW

Bev Abma, Classis Grandville's newly appointed delegate to the board of World Renew, introduced herself to classis. She noted that \$124,000 has been received from Classis Grandville churches for disaster response, and \$45,000 received from the churches of classis for families living in poverty.

### Article 13

#### COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Rachel Bouwkamp gave an oral report on the work of the COD. The COD has numerous matters to address from the 2023 Synod at its fall meeting.

### Article 14

#### CLASSICAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Classical treasurer Leon De Lange presented an update financial report. Gifts totally \$2950 were received from the churches in response to a request for additional student fund support to meet the needs of seminarians for the remainder of 2023. Classis acknowledges these gifts with gratitude.

The work of the classical treasurer was approved.

### Article 15

#### SYNODICAL DELEGATE REPORT

Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg reported as a delegate to Synod, 2023. He noted the following:

Classis Grandville's four delegates met for a 'debriefing' after synod.

This synodical gathering was bathed in prayer.

Churches are encouraged to make liturgical use of the Belhar Confession and also to include regular prayers of lament.

Classis Grandville should look for ways to be more pro-active in seeking nominations for elder and deacon delegates. Also, new delegates should receive some orientation from previous synodical delegates.

### Article 16

#### EXECUTIVE TEAM

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

### Article 17

#### STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

## MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Rev. Rog Groenboom presented the proposed budget for February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025.  
Rev. Dan Kinnas assumed the chair for this portion of the meeting.

Rog noted that the increase in the budget was largely due to a significant increase in student fund seminarian assistance because of several additional students.

The following motion was moved and supported:

**That Classis Grandville adopt the proposed classical budget in the printed agenda for February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025 for a total amount of \$125,165 (\$32.44 per profession member).**

**ADOPTED.**

Article 18

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman reported on this team's involvement with seminary students.

Article 19

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Bob Huisman reported on behalf the delegates from the Heritage CRC who served as the credentials committee. The Pathway CRC requested the assistance of classis on the following matter:

“At Pathway Church, we're interested in our elders developing as effective teachers and discipleship leaders. As part of that process, with investment in the Scriptures, pastoral direction and training, we'd like to have the possible goal for every elder to lead a sermon (i.e. meditation, life testimony, or reflection on a text) at least once during their 3 year elder term. These occasional message would be approved in advance by our pastor and our Executive Council. We believe this process might also reveal pastoral or preaching gifts which could then be more formally pursued.

“As both council and members of the church has considered this, we looked to the Church Order for guidance. However, we were unclear about whether or not we could pursue this as a possible goal for our elders prior to a more formal licensing process.

“Therefore, we are seeking input from Classis. With regard to the Scriptures, our confessions, our Church Polity, and regular practice; does the Pathway Executive Council have the authority to authorize a process whereby our elders could prepare and deliver a sermon to our church?

“Moreover, would we be able to periodically extend that same training and authorization to previously serving elders who are still active members of the church?”

The chairperson referred this request to the Executive Team.

## **MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

### Article 20

#### CLASSICAL PRAYER MOBILIZER

Diane Dykgraaf had no report.

### Article 21

#### REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Kent Rottman gave a brief report to classis; he encouraged pastors to meet with him.

### Article 22

#### STATED CLERK REPORT

The extension of Rev. Tony Meyer's 'loan' to Mountainside International Church in Madrid was approved earlier in the meeting. The remainder of the stated clerk report was received for information.

The work of the stated clerk was approved.

### Article 23

#### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Historical Committee report in the printed agenda was received for information.

### Article 24

#### DELEGATES TO THE JANUARY MEETING OF CLASSIS

Because Classis will be returning to the matter of the release of Rev. A. J. Gretz from the office of minister of Word in the CRCNA as its January meeting, churches are encouraged when possible to re-delegate this session's delegates to this next meeting.

### Article 25

#### CLOSING

The chairperson closed this meeting of classis with prayer.

**Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:  
Thursday, January 18, 2024**