

# MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Meeting at:  
Hanley Christian Reformed Church  
Grandville, Michigan

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

## Article 1

### OPENING WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by Diane Dykgraaf, classical prayer mobilizer, Rev. Rick Vanderwal (Healthy Church Team chairperson), and Rachel Bouwkamp (classical COD delegate). Worship centered around the reading of Psalm 34, and it included singing and circles of prayer.

## Article 2

### CREDENTIALS

The following persons served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		Jim Bos Mike Broekhuis	
Friendship Heritage Pathway Second Dorr Grandville Fellowship Hanley Ivanrest South Grandville Wyoming Calvary Faith Community Hahn-In Hispana Emanuel Lee Street	Dan Kinnas Bob Huisman Jim Heethuis Rick Vanderwal Cedric Parsels  Tom Vander Ploeg Joe Vanden Akker Branden Haan Rod Galindo  Mark Van Drunen Rog Groenboom  Kent Rottman	John Huizinga Jon Diekema Joe Seif Ben Pitsch Mark Tehennepe  Bruce Morren Don Dykstra Randy Goodyke Mike Besteman  Shirley De Lange Lorin Bossenbroek  Carole ten Haaf	Justin Reimink Ben Quist  *Dave Veltman Ron Jansen  Kathy Kikkert Pete Haverkamp Jim Heyboer Sue Pipping  Katie Elders Cade Young  Dave Bouwkamp

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\*First-time delegate who stood who indicate his agreement with the Covenant for office-bearers

### Article 3

#### CHAIRPERSON

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

### Article 4

#### WELCOME

The chairperson welcomed delegates and guests, including several individuals who made presentations at this meeting. He briefly commented on the schedule for the evening.

### Article 5

#### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The delegates from Second Byron Center CRC were appointed to serve as the credentials committee.

### Article 6

#### EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

The report in the printed agenda was received for information.

### Article 7

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Rev. Dan Kinnas updated classis on the ministry of the Albanian Christian Ministry and briefly introduced "Together West Michigan".

### Article 8

#### HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM

Rev. Rick Vanderwal reported that this team is taking a fresh look at how to fruitfully conduct church visiting. More members are needed on this team.

### Article 9

#### STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Rev. Rog Groenboom reported that grant applications will be distributed in the spring. Congregations are invited to apply for funds for new ministry opportunities.

### Article 10

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman reported that Classis Grandville has relationships with seven seminarians, six of whom we help to support financially. Due to special gifts from the churches in Classis Grandville, the Leadership Development Team was able to fully fund student fund support for these seminarians.

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### Article 11

#### ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO SYNOD, 2024

After a series of ballot votes, Classis Grandville chose the following persons as delegates to Synod, 2024:

Minister – Rev. Rod Galindo

Elder – Ruth Carr

Deacon – Jim Heyboer

Other – Rev. Joe Vanden Akker

Minister alternate – Rev. Brandon Haan

Elder alternate [referred to Executive Team]

Deacon alternate – Ben Quist

Other alternate – Rev. Tom Vander Ploeg

### Article 12

#### CLASSICAL DIACONAL MINISTRY

No report.

### Article 13

#### SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

### Article 14

#### REQUEST FROM FRIENDSHIP CRC FOR THE LOAN OF REV. TIM HOLWERDA

The Friendship CRC called Rev. Tim Holwerda to serve as pastor of the Heliopolis Community Church in Cairo, Egypt, and requested Classis Grandville to endorse this call and loan of Rev. Holwerda, according to Article 13c of the church order.

**A motion was made and supported to approve this loan of Rev. Holwerda to the Heliopolis Community Church.**

**ADOPTED.**

**Synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East), Rev. Jeff Scripps (Classis Georgetown) and Rev. Dave Spoelma (Classis Holland), concurred with this this decision.**

Notes: This loan is approved for two years (renewable).

The churches of classis are invited to contact Rev. Holwerda and consider him for Faith Promise support.

Rev. Dan Kinnas led classis in prayer for the Holwerda's.

### Article 15

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

The oversight team appointed for Pastor A. J. Gretz made the following recommendations to Classis Grandville:

- a. **That Classis Grandville declare A. J. Gretz to be released from the office of Minister of the Word in the CRCNA per C.O. Article 14c.**

**A motion was made and supported to amend this recommendation to the following:**

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**That Classis Grandville declare A J. Gretz to be dismissed from the office of Minister of the Word in the CRCNA per C. O. Article 14c.**

**This motion to amend was ADOPTED.**

**The main motion as amended was then ADOPTED.**

**The synodical deputies listed above (Gelder, Scripps and Spoelma) concurred with this decision.**

- b. That Classis Grandville require a Psychological Assessment and assigned Ministry Coaching to be necessary in the event that A. J. ever feels called to return to ordained ministry in the CRCNA.**

**ADOPTED.**

- c. That Classis Grandville covers the expenses of the Psychological Assessment and Ministry Coaching at a cost not to exceed \$2500 (adjusted for inflation).**

**ADOPTED.**

Chairperson Rog Groenboom led classis in prayer for A. J. Gretz and his family and for South Grandville CRC.

### Article 16

#### DORR CRC AND PASTOR CEDRIC PARSELS

Rev. Dan Kinnas, church visitor, presented the following recommendations to Classis Grandville:

- a. That Rev. Cedric Parsels be released from active ministerial service to the Dorr Christian Reformed Church in Dorr, Michigan, effective upon the approval of Classis Grandville and the synodical deputies in accordance with Article 17 of the Christian Reformed Church Order.**

**ADOPTED.**

**The synodical deputies listed above (Gelder, Schripps and Spoelma) concurred with this decision of Classis Grandville.**

- b. That Classis Grandville appoint oversight teams for Rev. Parsels and for the Dorr CRC.**

**ADOPTED.**

- c. That Classis Grandville concur in the separation agreement signed by Rev. Parsels and the Dorr CRC council.**

**ADOPTED.**

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Rev. Rod Galindo led classis in prayer for Rev. Parsels and his family and for the Dorr congregation.

### Article 17

#### REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Kent Rottman reported on his work as regional pastor at the time of great challenge for several pastors and congregations within classis.

### Article 18

#### ROOSEVELT PARK MINISTRIES

Joel Groot reported on the wide range of neighborhood ministries taking place in the Roosevelt Park community, including ESL classes, computer classes, a winter wear drive, and support for those who have experienced trauma.

RPM has worked with 200 students from 15 different countries.

Joel thanked classis for its prayers and financial support.

### Article 19

#### CHURCH COUNSELOR REPORT

Rev. Bryce Mensink reported as the church counselor for the Hahn-In CRC. Pastor Kyung Phil Kim recently received his doctorate from Calvin Theological Seminary. He is now completing candidacy requirements for ordination in the CRCNA, after which he will be examined by Classis Grandville.

### Article 20

#### PRAYER MOBILIZER

Diane Dykgraaf reported as prayer mobilizer for classis. She requested the names of worship leaders in each congregation in order to pray regularly for them.

### Article 21

#### THRIVE

Chris Schoon introduced classis to Thrive, the new CRC ministry organization that has united nine separate ministries into one. Thrive is the denominational agency that serves to equip local churches in order to help them thrive and flourish. Local churches needing ministry ideas can simply contact Thrive and they will be directed to the appropriate persons within Thrive for assistance.

### Article 22

#### CLASSICAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Leon De Lange, classical treasurer, distributed a current financial support that he had prepared earlier that day. Leon encouraged churches to submit their ministry share pledges to him by January 31.

Classis approved the work of the classical treasurer.

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### Article 23

#### STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Classis received the state clerk's report for information. The work of the stated clerk was approved.

### Article 24

#### COMMUNICATION FROM LAIN VASQUEZ

A communication from Lain Martinez Vasquez, a member of the Ivanrest CRC, was included in the printed agenda, requesting Classis Grandville to adopt this communication and forward it to Synod, 2024. Ms. Vasquez had submitted her communication to the council of Ivanrest CRC but it was not adopted.

**The following motion was moved and supported:  
That Classis Grandville not adopt this communication.  
ADOPTED.**

Lain was informed of her right to forward her communication to synod on her own.

### Article 25

#### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Rick Vanderwal reported that the First Byron Center CRC had included the following information on its credentials:

"The Council of Byron Center First Christian Reformed Church informs Classis that on December 12, 2023 our senior pastor, Dr. David Murray, resigned. Due to ongoing mental health issues, he is unable to continue to serve as our pastor."

Classis referred this to the Executive Team to put plans in place for working with Dr. Murray and the First Byron council and ultimately bring recommendations back to classis.

### Article 26

#### COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Rachel Bouwkamp reported on the ongoing issues being addressed by the Council of Delegates.

### Article 27

#### WORLD RENEW

Bev Abma described for classis the joy of serving in places of suffering like the Dominican Republic and Lebanon. She encouraged churches to participate in a special offering on February 25 for Disaster Response.

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Article 28

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Rog Groenboom closed the session of classis with prayer.

**Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:  
Thursday, May 16, 2024**