

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Meeting at:
World Renew Ministry Center
Byron Center, Michigan

Chairperson: Rev. Rick Vanderwal
Stated Clerk: Rev. Dan Mouw

Article 1

OPENING WORSHIP

Diane Dykgraaf, classical prayer coordinator, led opening worship with an emphasis on celebrating God's mission of building His kingdom on earth. Delegates sang "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God" and "See My Hands and Feet."

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following person served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		*David Hop Jerry Berkenpas	
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 Joe Vanden Akker Brandon Haan Rod Galindo Rog Groenboom Phil Kim Joel Van Dyke	Jon Diekema Lyle Brouwer *Mason Miller Mark Tehennepe *Mary Bouma Pete Bottema Scott Zylstra Steve Schroeder Dale Elders Tim Walburg Jerry Sikkema	Justin Reimink Ben Quist *Kevin Byker Jon Meengs Ron De Young *Tom Wright *Dan Bannister *Marilyn Brinks Andrew Postma Deb Ouwinga

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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

Article 3

CHAIRPERSON

Rev. Rick Vanderwal served as chairperson. Vice –chairperson was Rev. Rog Groenboom.

Article 4

WELCOME

The chairperson welcomed delegates and visitors.

Article 5

EXPLANATION OF THE AGENDA

The chairperson reviewed the evening agenda with the delegates.

Article 6

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The chairperson assigned the delegates from South Grandville CRC to serve as the credentials committee.

Article 7

EXECUTIVE TEAM

- a) The Executive Team presented the following motions to classis:
 - 1) **That Classis Grandville, per Church Order article 24-d, release Nate Rusticus as a commissioned pastor within the CRC, effective March 24, 2024.
This motion was supported and ADOPTED.**
 - 2) **That Classis Grandville declare that this commissioned pastor position at Ivanrest CRC is eliminated.
This motion was supported and ADOPTED.**

- b) The following motion was made and supported:
**To re-elect Rev. Dan Mouw as stated clerk and Rev. Dale Fopma as alternate stated clerk for three year terms.
This motion was ADOPTED.**

- c) The following motion was made and supported;
**To re-elect Leon De Lange as classical treasurer and Doug Hassink as alternate classical treasurer for three year terms.
This motion was ADOPTED.**

- d) Diane Dykgraaf reported to classis in her role as Classical Prayer Mobilizer. She informed classis of her participation with the synodical prayer team.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Diane also indicated that she was resigning from her position because her difficulties with recent decisions of synod have made it impossible for her to continue in this leadership role. The chairperson thanked Diane for her exemplary service to classis and Rev. Bob Huisman prayed for the Lord's leading for Diane in the future.

Article 8

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Rev. Rog Groenboom presented a proposed 2025 budget for Classis Grandville. This budget can be found in the printed agenda.

The following motion was made and supported: **That Classis Grandville approve the presented 2025 budget for a total of \$121,404 (\$31.76 per professing member).**

ADOPTED.

Article 9

COMMUNITY IMPACT TEAM

No report.

Article 10

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Rev. Bob Huisman updated classis on student fund support and ongoing deliberations with pastors seeking ordination in the CRCNA.

Article 11

CLASSICAL DIACONAL MINISTRY

No report.

Article 12

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 13

REGIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Kent Rottman, regional pastor, reviewed for the delegates an article entitled: "2021 Pastoral Mental Health Report", by Jeremy Smith. He urged elders and deacons to pose this question to their pastors: "How are you doing with your mental/emotional health?" Kent led classis with a prayer for pastors.

Article 14

RESONATE

Rev. Scott Stark reviewed for the delegates the worldwide impact of Resonate and the significance of classical and congregational support.

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Article 15

THEREFORE GO

Rick Zomer addressed classis about the impact of the ministry of “Therefore Go” (formerly Youth Unlimited). SERVE, in the summer of 2024, included 20 churches and over 1000 participants. 2025 sites will be publicized on October 1 and registration will begin on November 1. SERVE is proving to be an excellent way to build relationships between adults and teenagers.

Article 16

WORLD RENEW

Bev Abma, Classis Grandville’s delegate to World Renew, thanked the delegates for their congregation’s financial support. Fall gift catalogues will be released soon. Bob Laarman also updated classis on Disaster Response Services. During a coffee break Bob led the delegates in a tour of the World Renew facility.

Article 17

HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM

Rev. Rick Vanderwal facilitated round table discussions on the current practice of church visiting. Delegates reimaged in their small groups other ways in which church visiting can be enhanced in order to facilitate care and concern for every congregation. The Healthy Church Team will review the comments that were recorded and bring a future recommendation to classis.

Article 18

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The delegates from South Grandville reported the following notations on the classical credentials:

- a) Pathway CRC requests classis’ help with ideas in finding a renter for a small commercial space on Pathway’s Campus [960 square feet for \$475 a month].
- b) Hanley CRC presented the following: “Hanley CRC’s council approved the request of Rev. Joseph Vanden Akker to retire, effective February 3, 2025, having reached the retirement age of 66. Rev. Vanden Akker requests that classis also approve of his retirement, effective February 3, 2025.”

A motion was made and supported to approve the retirement of Rev. Joe Vanden Akker, because of age, on February 3, 2025. ADOPTED.

- c) Calvary CRC conveyed the following lament:
“The council of Calvary CRC desires to communicate our lament regarding how recent synodical decisions have evolved. We lament what feels like ‘hard line’ decisions that have imposed on each and every church the necessity to choose one side or the other. We lament that the decisions have already communicated a

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

perceived 'good riddance' attitude regarding the departure of entire congregations from our denomination. We express immense sorry and remorse that our denomination has chosen division over unity – Christ's final prayer for his church."

The chairperson referred this to the Executive Team for follow-up. Rev. Rod Galindo led classis in prayer for Calvary CRC.

Article 19

CHURCH VISITOR REPORTS

Rev. Dan Kinnas and Rev. Rick Vanderwal reported on their consultations with the leadership of Heritage CRC following the resignation of Pastor Kevin Van Wyhe.

Rev. Bob Huisman indicated that First Byron Center CRC will soon be making a decision about an interim pastor.

Article 20

OVERSIGHT TEAM REPORTS

a) Rev. Mark Van Drunen

The oversight team reported the following: "Kent met with Pastor Mark last week and the team will meet with Mark in mid-October. Mark is 3 ½ months through his six month severance package."

b) Dorr CRC

The oversight team submitted a written report, updating classis on its ongoing communications with the council of Dorr CRC.

The oversight team summed up its report with the following recommendation:

That Dorr CRC be declared ready to be able to enter a search process to extend a call to a pastor that Lord has prepared for this position, and with that to declare the work of this oversight team completed.

This motion was supported and ADOPTED.

c) Calvary CRC

The oversight team reported that Rev. Harold Veldman accepted the invitation of Calvary CRC to serve as their interim transitional pastor, beginning in September. Calvary CRC will not pursue issuing a call to fill the position of senior pastor until later.

Article 21

CHURCH COUNSELOR REPORT

Rev. Bryce Mensink sent a written report that Rev. Phil Kim will be installed as senior pastor at Hahn-In CRC on October 6. A full report will be issued for the January, 2025 meeting of classis. Chairperson Rick Vanderwal prayed for Rev. Kim and the Hahn-In congregation.

Article 22

SYNODICAL DELEGATES REPORT

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Synodical delegates Rev. Rod Galindo, Rev. Joe Vanden Akker, and Ruth Carr reported on their participation at the June, 2024 meeting of synod.

Article 23

RETIREMENT OF REV. BARB SANDERS

The council of Fellowship CRC made the following recommendation:

That Classis Grandville approve the retirement of Rev. Barb Sanders, because of age, on December 31, 2024.

This motion was supported and ADOPTED.

Fellowship CRC noted with gratitude that Pastor Barb has been part of the ministry staff at Fellowship CRC since 1995.

Article 24

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The stated clerk reported that he received a 'transfer of supervision for a retired minister' from the council of Third CRC in Kalamazoo, Michigan to the Friendship CRC in Byron Center, Michigan. This retired minister is Rev. Ronald De Young. The council of Friendship CRC agreed to accept this responsibility of supervision.

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

Article 25

CLASSICAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Classical treasurer Leon De Lange reviewed the second quarter financial report that ended on July 31.

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

Article 26

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES REPORT

Rachel Bouwkamp, delegate from Classis Grandville to the COD, requested prayers for the upcoming COD meeting on October 16-18.

A gathering of 10 persons each from five classes, including Classis Grandville, will take place in Houston, Texas on March 20-22. All expenses will be covered. To learn more, and express interest in participating, please contact Rachel or the stated clerk.

Article 27

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was adopted and the chairperson closed the meeting in prayer.

The next regular meeting of Classis Grandville is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2025

