

MINUTES OF CLASSIS GRANDVILLE

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Meeting at Lee Street Christian Reformed Church Wyoming, Michigan

Article 1

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship leaders from Lee Street CRC, Jonatan Gonzalez, Kevin Secundino and Rachel Bouwkamp, led classis in opening worship with prayer, a reading from Ephesians 3, and singing.

Article 2

CREDENTIALS

The following persons served as delegates:

CHURCHES	MINISTERS	ELDERS	DEACONS
Byron Center First		Tim Burgess Don Van Solkema	
Friendship	Dan Kinnas Eric Everhart	Ed Huisman	
Heritage Pathway	Bob Huisman	Jon Diekema	Ben Quist
Second Dorr	Rick Vanderwal Bob Post	Greg Boer Bob Snoeyink	
Grandville Fellowship			
Hanley	Joe Vanden Akker	Jerry Pio	Pete Haverkamp
Ivanrest	Brandon Haan	Ruth Carr	*Phyllis Klawiter
South Grandville Wyoming	Rod Galindo	Ed Peters	Brenda Zuiderveen
Calvary		Matt Jewett	Colleen Kruis
Faith Community Hahn-In	Rog Groenboom Kyung Phil Kim	Joel Bosma	Tom Marsman Young Wook Yi Charles Lee
Hispana Emanuel Lee Street	Steve De Vries	Ed De Groot	Kevin Secundino

*First-time delegates stood to affirm their agreement with the Covenant for Office-bearers.

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Article 3

WELCOME

Rev. Rick Vanderwal assumed the chair; vice-chairperson was Rev. Rog Groenboom. The chairperson welcomed delegates and visitors. Those in attendance included Rev. Harold Veldman, interim pastor at Calvary CRC, and Annie Biggs.

Article 4

EVENING SCHEDULE

The chairperson indicated that a refreshment break was scheduled for 6:45 p.m. and the examination of Pastor Jean Gomes was scheduled to begin shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Article 5

APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The delegates from Ivanrest CRC were appointed to serve as the credentials committee.

Article 6

EXECUTIVE TEAM

- a) The Executive Team made these recommendations to classis following consultation with the council of Calvary CRC:

1) That Rodney Betten be released from the office of commissioned pastor, since his position at Guiding Light no longer exists, and he is not doing similar work currently.

This motion was supported and ADOPTED.

2) That Classis Grandville declare that this position is terminated.

This motion was supported and ADOPTED.

- b) Since the terms of synodical deputy Rev. Bryce Mensink and alternate deputy Rev. Doug Fauble end on June 30, 2025, and they are not eligible for reelection to the same positions, the Executive Team nominated Rev. Fauble for synodical deputy and Rev. Rick Vanderwal for alternate synodical deputy. No other nominations were received.

A motion was made and supported to elect Rev. Doug Fauble as synodical deputy and Rev. Rick Vanderwal as alternate synodical deputy.

ADOPTED.

Article 7

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO SYNOD, 2025

Since no firm nominations were received prior to this meeting or at this meeting, the chairperson referred this need for synodical delegates to the Executive Team for follow-up. The deadline for submitting the names of delegates for the synodical agenda is March 15, 2025.

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Article 8

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Committee chairperson Rev. Dan Kinnas updated classis on the Albanian Christian Ministry, which is supported by Classis Grandville.

Article 9

HEALTHY CHURCH TEAM

Committee chairperson Rev. Rick Vanderwal reported that this team is in the process of evaluating current church visiting practices in light of the round table discussions at the September, 2024 meeting of Classis Grandville. A recommendation to classis will be forthcoming.

This team is conducting a search for someone to serve as classical prayer mobilizer. Two persons have expressed interest in serving classis in this role.

Article 10

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Rev. Rog Groenboom, committee chairperson, reported that once again Classis Grandville will distribute classical grants to various area ministries along with the congregations within Classis Grandville. A total of \$50,000 will be made available for these grants. Applications for a 2026 grant will be distributed in February.

Article 11

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Committee chairperson Rev. Bob Huisman reported that Classis Grandville currently supports five students who are preparing for ministry in the CRCNA. This team also coordinated with the Candidacy Committee in preparing Pastor Jean Gomes for CRC ordination.

Article 12

CLASSICAL PRAYER MOBILIZER

No report.

Article 13

CLASSICAL DIACONAL MINISTRY

No report.

Article 14

SAFE CHURCH TEAM

No report.

Article 15

REGIONAL PASTOR

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Rev. Kent Rottman, regional pastor has been meeting with Rev. Mark Van Drunen, former pastor of Calvary CRC, and Rev. Greg Vander Horn, who recently became a member of Calvary CRC and whose ministerial credentials were recently transferred to Classis Grandville. Both of these pastors are seeking the Lord's leading for their future callings.

Rev. Rottman led classis in an acknowledgement of the retirement of Rev. Joe Vanden Akker, whose farewell from the Hanley CRC is scheduled for February 2. Rev. Rottman gave a visual introduction to each of the congregations Rev. Vander Akker served. He led classis in a group prayer for Rev. Vander Akker as he and his wife Karen transition to a new chapter in their marriage and service.

Article 16

STATUS OF KEVIN VAN WYHE

Classis Grandville met in strict executive session to make a declaration concerning the status of commissioned pastor Kevin Van Wyhe, who resigned from his position as youth pastor at Heritage CRC in July, 2024.

A motion was made and supported to make the following declaration: That the status of former commissioned pastor Kevin Van Wyhe is as one who has been dismissed.

ADOPTED.

A motion was made and supported to declare that this commissioned pastor position at Heritage CRC has been eliminated.

ADOPTED.

Article 17

COLLOQUIUM DOCTUM OF PASTOR JEAN GOMES

Pastor Gomes was introduced by elder delegate Tim Burgess. Rev. Steve De Vries then interviewed Pastor Gomes about his faith story, his spiritual practices, his understanding of Scripture, and his sense of call to the office of Minister of the Word in the CRCNA.

A motion was made and supported to approve Pastor Gomes to receive a call as minister of the Word in the CRCNA.

The chairperson declared an executive session. Pastor Dan Mouw led classis in a prayer for God's guidance.

This motion was ADOPTED.

Synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder (Classis Grand Rapids East) and Rev. Curt Walters (Classis Georgetown) concurred with this decision. Synodical deputy Rev. Darwin Glassford was scheduled to attend but was not in attendance.

The chairperson congratulated Pastor Gomes and classis surrounded him and his wife in a circle of prayer for God's blessing on his ministry at First Byron Center CRC.

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Article 18

REV. GREG VANDER HORN

The Executive Team made the following recommendation to Classis Grandville:

That Rev. Greg Vander Horn's eligibility for a call be extended for an additional year following his release from his previous ministry two years ago under Article 17.

The motion was supported and ADOPTED.

Synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder and Rev. Curt Walters concurred with this decision.

Article 18

COMMISSIONED PASTOR JAMES LEE

Commissioned Pastor James Lee, missionary pastor to Mexico with Resonate Global Mission, has requested that his credentials be transferred from the Oakdale Park CRC to South Grandville CRC.

The Executive Team made the following recommendations to Classis Grandville:

That an examination for Pastor Lee be waived because he will be serving in the same office and role.

This motion was supported and ADOPTED.

That the job description for Pastor Lee be approved as consistent with the office of commissioned pastor.

This motion was supported and ADOPTED.

Synodical deputies Rev. Al Gelder and Rev. Curt Walters concurred with this decision.

Article 19

CHURCH COUNSELOR REPORT

Rev. Bryce Mensink reported that Rev. Dr. Kyung Phil Kim was installed on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at a "Wee Im" worship service at Hahn-In CRC as their approved CRC minister of the Word. This service was followed by a festive luncheon.

This report was received with thanks by Classis Grandville.

Article 20

CLASSICAL TREASURER REPORT

Classical treasurer Leon De Lange submitted a preliminary year-end report for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2025. He indicated that receipts for classical ministry share giving represents approximately 80% of the budgeted amount.

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

Article 21

STATED CLERK REPORT

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Stated clerk Rev. Dan Mouw reported that the Executive Team endorsed the ministerial credentials of Rev. Cedric Parsels which were received from the Faith Community CRC. These credentials were forwarded to Classis Illiana. Installation at the New Life CRC in Highland, Indiana, was planned for January 19, 2025.

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

Article 22

WORLD RENEW DELEGATE REPORT

Bev Abma, Classis Grandville's delegate to World Renew, distributed a current report from World Renew requesting the following:

PRAY: Prayer for wise discernment, stamina and resources to respond effectively to situations at home and abroad.

ACTS: Join a Discovery Tour to Honduras, encourage volunteers for Disaster Response Services, join a group mission trip.

LEARN: Plan a visit and tour at the U.S. office of World Renew.

[check with your classical delegates for further information]

Article 23

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES REPORT

Rachel Bouwkamp, Classis Grandville's representative to the Council of Delegates, reported that ten individuals within classis have volunteered to represent Classis Grandville at the Gather Event in Houston, Texas in March. Those who plan to participate are Rachel Bouwkamp and Jonatan Gonzalez (Lee Street), Duane Nieuwsma (Dorr). Jim Heethuis, Tim Hamm (Pathway), Ruth Fredrick (Heritage), Jean Gomes (First Byron Center), Brandon Haan, Sheri Ilbrink and Ruth Carr (Ivanrest),

Article 24

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Ivanrest CRC delegates indicated that there were no additional notations on the classical credentials.

Article 25

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and supported to adjourn. Chairperson Rick Vanderwal concluded the meeting with prayer.

Next regular meeting of Classis Grandville:

Thursday, May 15, 2025

