

Minutes of Classis Grand Rapids South

Cutlerville East CRC

January 18, 2018

6:30 p.m.

1. Arrival- Delegates presented their credentials to the clerk, put on a name tags and picked up new and materials not previously distributed. First-time delegates signed the *Covenant for Officebearers in the Christian Reformed Church* indicating their agreement as delegates to Classis Grand Rapids South. *(They signed previously upon their installation as officebearers.)*

2. Opening Devotions- Rev. Wm Renkema read from I Peter, asking “Who Are We?” and answered by encouraging us that we are “Living Stones, A Holy Nation, Chosen People, Aliens in a Strange World...” called to declare the praises of a Holy God. The delegates sang, “Make Me a Channel” and our host led us in opening prayer.

3. Roll Call- Upon being introduced by Rev. Ron Kool, the Stated Clerk George Vink called the role as listed on the submitted credentials:

Church	Minister	Elder	Deacon
Alger Park	<i>-No delegates due to conflict with Rev. D. Deters retirement celebration.</i>		
Community	Rev. Dave Struyk	Kelly Blok	Jud Myszek
Covenant	Rev. Curt Walters	Matt De Vries	Eric Van Duyn
Cutlerville East	Rev. Bill Renkema	Don Cok	Ron Cok
Discovery	Rev. Paul Sauser	Marj Terpstra	Jill Jansen
Ist Cutlerville		Gordon Van Singel	Brian Bronsink
Hillside Community	Rev. Ron Kool	Tim Zwart	Jamie Hoekwater
Ideal Park		Andy Geelhoed	Dave Thacker
Immanuel**		Ronald Hulst	Kenneth Wenger
inspirit	Rev. Randy Ledeboer	Lisa Westra & Joel Potts--Ministry Team	
Members			
Kelloggsville	Rev. Martin Benckhuysen	Jacque Bolt	Julie Marsman
LaGrave	Rev. Ruth Boven	Dave Buter	Jeff Scholtens
Moline	Rev. Jim De Zeeuw	Scott Van Wyk	
Monroe Community		Mark Van Allen	Miranda Gardner
Providence	Rev. Robert Boersma	Jim Nammensma	
The Pier	<i>No delegates due to conflict-Funeral</i>		
Wayland		Ron Grassmid	John Goedegebuure

4. Declaration- Chairperson Ron Kool declared Classis constituted and welcomed the delegates and guests. Stated Clerk George Vink serves as recording clerk.

5. Approval of Minutes- Motion made and supported to approve the minutes of the Oct, 12, 2017, Classis meeting. Motion passed.

6. Appointment of Committees

- Committee to examine credentials: Moline Delegates
- Balloting committee: Cutlerville East-Pastor Wm Renkema
Kelloggsville Elder- Julie Marsman

7. Oversight Committee Reports-

a. First Cutlerville- Rev. Peter Yonker reported on the committee's contact with First Cutlerville since Classis' January 19th C.O. Article 17a decision. Good progress in terms of conversations and healing has taken place. Dr. Doug Kamstra is serving the church well as a Specialized Trained Minister. **Classis voted** to approve the committee's recommendation that First Cutlerville is free to pursue calling another pastor.

b. Dr. Randy Blacketer- Rev. Ron Kool reported that ongoing contact is continuing and healing is taking place. No recommendation at this time.

8. Elections-

a. Synod 2018:

Motion made, supported and passed to have a Minister be the Other Officebearer as fourth delegate. No deacon names were proposed from the Credentials or the floor. Classis voted the following delegates to Synod June 7-14, 2018 at Calvin College:

Minister: Rev. Ruth Boven Alternate Minister: Rev. Martin Benckhuysen

Elder: Jacque Bolt Alternate Elder: Jan Heerspink

Other Officebearer: Rev. Curt Walters Alternate: Rev. Dave Struyk

Deacon: ***No names were submitted. The Classical Interim Committee may be contacting the churches requesting assistance in securing a deacon delegate to Synod 2018.***

b. Classical Positions:

Upon presentation by the Classical Interim Committee, the following Servants of Grand Rapids South were approved: (# in bracket indicates term number)

Alternate Stated Clerk- CIC mandated to secure
 Established Church- Rev. Stephen DeWitt (1)
 New Church Development- Dave Klooster (4) Rev.Dave Struyk (3)
 Classical Ministerial Leadership—Rev. Martin Benckhuysen(1)
 Church Visitor-Team One- Rev.Paul Sausser (2)
 Diaconal Ministries – Harold Mast
 Established Church- Rev. James De Zeeuw (2)
 Spiritual Growth and Prayer-Bernita Tuinenga (3)
 Classical Finance- Rev. Jerry Zandstra (4)
 Regional Pastor(s)-Being reviewed by CIC

9. Reports from the Servants of Classis and Classical Committees

a. Stated Clerk- George Vink supplemented his written, previously distributed report. His work declared approved. He highlighted the following:

1. Need for the churches to submit their newsworthy material to the CRCNA Historical Committee via crcarchives@calvin.edu Clerk has records of who has submitted and who hasn't.
2. Church Safety Training Seminar –RCA Great Lakes City Classis Feb. 17, 9-11am at Thornapple Community Church- Register for free spot: tleistra@glcclassis.org
3. Safe Church Ministry Equipping Session- January 25, 6:30-8.30pm at Westend Church. Contact Rev.Eric Kas to register. EKas@crcna.org

b. Council of Delegates- Dave Struyk gave a brief summary of the first meeting and its process.

c. Classical Interim Committee- Chairman Paul Sausser reported the following activities and upon conclusion its work was approved.

1. Appointment of Rev. Mike Hoogeboom as Alger CRC's Classical Counselor
2. The Regional Pastor(s) position is being reviewed in consultation with neighboring classes with the possibility of its becoming a compensated ministry role.
3. The transfer of Rev. Wayne Ondersma's Credentials from Immanuel CRC to Providence CRC due to Immanuel's disbanding.
4. Recommended that Rev. John Matias be honorably released as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA. Motion made, supported and passed. Synodical Deputies were informed by the Stated Clerk with background and concurred with Classis' decision. (C.O. Article 14.c)
5. Esteban Lugo has appealed Classis' September 19th decision regarding his release as Minister of the Word in the CRCNA with "the status of one deposed." He's appealed to the Judicial Code Committee which will hold a hearing anticipating a report to Synod 2018. Classis' involvement by way of the CIC has included a listing of possible witnesses regarding Classis' decision and its process. CIC made available a letter from the Leadership Council of the Consejo Latino expressing disappointment with the process and decision.
6. Church visitors Rev's Curt Walters and Paul Sausser have worked extensively with the Immanuel CRC in assisting them in anticipation of their transition, including the appropriate disbursement of funds and retirement provisions for Rev. Adams. In accordance with C.O. Article 38-d, Classis GRSouth by way of motion **approved the disbanding of Immanuel CRC**, blessing God for His faithfulness in 70 years of ministry. Pastors Sausser and Walters with the Immanuel elders present led classis in prayer.

d. Treasurer- Brenda Bosch's Written Report previously distributed. No questions were asked. She indicated that members of classis could contact her if there were any questions.

e. Classical Ministries –Chairman Dave Struyk led a period of input and discussion based on the 2011 Classical Vision and its Five Goals. Upon review of the 5 key ministry areas by its leaders, classis spent time in small groups considering ways to enhance or implement further the stated goals. The groups reported to the body possible areas for further follow up by the Classis Ministry Team, with a focus on improved communication, pastoral health and integration of youth ministries. Daniel Maat reviewed the increased activity of Classis' Website, "OneFaithManyFaces."

f. New Church Development-Dave Struyk distributed the information of how NCD is providing encouragement, assistance and resources to emerging churches. CMD recommended the hiring of a "New Church Liaison" for a 2018 trial period. It would involve about 20 hours/month with funding from previously budgeted funds at \$15.00/hr and expenses for an annual cost of \$4000. Classis approved this expenditure "to assist the NCD Team in communicating and helping supervise the new church starts in our area." Carole Pettijohn from Classis Grandville will serve.

g. Established Church Development-No report

h. Spiritual Growth and Prayer- Bob Boersma encouraged attendance at the Pastors' Retreat Sept 30/Oct 1, urging churches to release their preaching pastors from pulpit duty Sept. 30pm.

He reminded the churches to welcome the team to join churches/groups for a time of prayer and consider attending a regional Prayer Summit.

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i. Ministry Leadership Team- No Report

j. Diaconal Committee- No Report

k. Prayer Coordinator- No Report

l. Church Visitors- No Reports

m. Church Counselors- Curt Walters (Ideal Park & East Cutlerville)
Mike Hoozeboom (Alger Park)

n. Regional Pastor(s)- In transition (cf 9.c.2)

o. Credentials Committee – Only one item requesting a pastor's not serving as delegate to synod 2018.

10. Expression of thanks to host church-Chairperson Ron Kool expressed the thanks of Classis to its host East Cutlerville CRC and staff for their hosting and gracious refreshments.

11. The next meeting of Classis will be Thursday May 17, 2018 at First Cutlerville CRC.
Deadline for the agenda will be Friday, April 13, 2018.

12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer-- Co-Chairperson Rev. Ruth Boven led the assembly in a prayer of gratitude as well as seeking a blessing upon the work and members of classis.

Respectfully submitted,

George G. Vink, Stated Clerk

Written Documents Enclosed in the Minutes of January 18, 2018 File:

~Agenda for Classis

~Stated Clerk's Written Report & Announcements

~Covenant for Office Bearers & Churches' Credentials

~Oversight Committee Report-First Cutlerville

~New Church Development Update Report

-Job Description for CD Liaison

-Goal Review Sheet

~Treasurer's Written Report

~Servants of Classis Ballot and Listing Update 2018

~Church Order 14c-Signed Document from SD's & Related Correspondence

