

Minutes of Classis Grand Rapids South

LaGrave Christian Reformed Church March 5, 2020 -6.30 p.m.

WE GATHER TOGETHER-

- 1. Arrival-** Delegates put on name tags, presented their credentials, 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. (All pastors, elders, & deacons also sign it upon installation as officebearers.)
- 2. Opening Devotions-** Jolene DeHeer, a member of our host church, shared encouraging reflections on “Hope” and led in prayer.
- 3. Roll Call-** The Stated Clerk called the role as listed on the submitted credentials:

Church	Minister	Elder(s)	Deacon
Alger Park	Stephen De Wit	Tom Laarman	Kim DeVries
Community	David Struyk	Deb Darby	
Covenant	Doug Kamstra	Anthony Boormsa	
Cutlerville East	Ed Visser	Dale Van Voorst	John Fisher
Discovery			
Ist Cutlerville	Josh Van Drunen	Dan Buist Gordon Van Singel	
Hillside Community	Daniel Bud	Ron Apol	
Ideal Park	Chris Bouma	Case VanderMaas	Linda Blouw
inSpirit	Randy Ledeboer	Lisa Westra/Rick Bouwma(MT)	
Kelloggsville	Martin Benckhuysen	Jacque Bolt	Mark Oostema
LaGrave	Ruth Boven	Carol Erichsen	Jeff Dekker
Moline		Duane Potts	Seth De Haan
Monroe Community	Jim Boer	Kristine Van Noord	
Providence	JB Wernlund	Dan Netz	Nick Buiter
The PIER	Wayne Ondersma	Joel Beukema	
Wayland		Glyn Davies/Steve Oetman	

- 4. Declaration-** Upon completion of the roll call, Classis was declared constituted and Ruth Boven assumed the chair. She welcomed guests, speakers, and delegates, including First Cutlerville’s new pastor. Rev. Joshua Van Drunen.
- 5. Approval of October 17, 2019 Minutes as Distributed-** Moved, supported and passed.
- 6. Appointment of Committee-** The Chair appointed Rev. Daniel Bud & Ron Apol to the Credential and Rev. Randy Ledeboer to the Balloting Committees.

OLD BUSINESS

- 7. Oversight Committee- No Report**

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NEW BUSINESS- Matters from the Classical Interim Committee

- 8. Retirement(s)-** As requested by Kelloggsville CRC and reported on their credentials, Classis approved the retirement of Commissioned Pastor Ron Geerlings with the understanding of his commission’s being as originally defined. (Stipulated in the *Commissioned Pastors Handbook*.) Reason: age Effective Date: June 28, 2020. Dave Struyk led classis in a prayer of thanksgiving.
- 9. Safe Church-** No update.

REPORTS

9a Reports from Classical Support Ministry Individuals and Teams

- i. **Stated Clerk**, George Vink's report previously distributed. Opportunity to ask questions was provided. Motion passed to approve his work.
- ii. **Classical Interim Committee**- 1. Stated Clerk, on Paul's behalf reviewed highlights of the previously-distributed report and presented its recommendation. The Regional Pastor's and Stated Clerk's honorariums were not changed due to they're having been reviewed most recently. George Vink to continue in both positions. *The Servants of Classis* listing was updated. Ed Visser was appointed as Alternate Synodical Deputy, with George Vink continuing as regular subject to COD & Synod approval. The CIC will continue to work with the Treasurer and an expanded Finance Committee in working out the possible Ministry Shares changes. Motion passed to approve its work. 2. The CIC presented the following regarding Church Visitors as part of the fulfilling the "Servants of Classis": **We recommend the formulation of a Church Visitation Team consisting of four (4) members, pastors or experienced elders, who will be available as needs arise or requests are made, and serving without the expectation of making scheduled visits to designated congregations.** Background: "Although it's a considerable change and literal variance from the present Church Order stipulations, doing so would reflect an acknowledging of our present reality. The consequence: Upon presentation of a need or request, Classis will have an experienced Church Visitor Team in place. The CIC will solicit recommendations as it forms the above proposed team." The recommendation was moved, supported and passed, noting that the composition of the team to be approved should have an emphasis on "experienced" for both pastors and elders.
- iii. **Treasurer**- Brenda Bosch highlighted the "Budget vs Actual by Committee" statement, covering the 6 areas involved. The chair thanked Brenda for her work.
- iv. **Credentials and Balloting Committees**- One retirement was presented on the credentials for Classis' action. (See 8 above) After reviewing the pastors available for Synod and introducing nominees presented on the credentials, classis voted. Upon not having a clear majority for any, classis voted to send those with the highest numbers as delegates and alternates, resulting in the following determination:

Delegates to Synod 2019:

Minister: Dave Struyk	Alternate: Ruth Boven
Elder: Dan Buist	Alternate: Ken Boersma
Deacon: _____	Alternate: _____
Other Officebearer: Chris Bouma	Alternate: Bob Boersma

The chair urged the members of classes to present deacons for consideration to the CIC.

9b Reports from Ministry Committees and Servants of Classis

- i. **Classical Ministry Team (CMT)**-Dave Struyk reported on continuing focus on Classis GRS' goals after taking some time as our Council of Delegates member to expand on the *COD Highlights* and its information regarding the Executive Director's resignation. He invited Dan Maat to make his presentation as described below. (9bxi)
- ii. **Established Church Development (ECD)**-No report
- iii. **New Church Development (NCD)**-Dave Struyk reported on the collaboration taking place between the CRC and RCA as coordinated by Monroe CRC. Upon the NCD's recommendation, classis voted to provide \$15,000. to All Abilities GR Church Plant (official name to come) - A new church being planted around full integration of those with and without disability/special needs.
- iv. **Classical Youth Leaders**-No report

- v. **Spiritual Growth and Prayer**-Felecia Bud led the classis in its closing prayer time.
- vi. **Diaconal Ministries (DMC)**-Daniel Bud distributed and highlighted his written report.
- vii. **Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)**- JB Wernlund reported on the team's contacting students and introduced several CTS students. Classis took time to pray for the students and the work of supporting them. He also presented the proposed change to the payment and repayment of support given. **Proposed:** *Smaller yearly amounts are given (capped at a total of \$6000 with exceptions given on a case by case basis) and after graduation, the students will be required to reach out the chair and give an update on what he/she is hearing from God and what they are doing about it. Each year there is a 33% reduction and after year 3 years the financial aid loan is forgiven.* Moved, supported and passed. This year's distribution: Marrissa Walters \$2000 CTS, Anastaze Nzabonimpa \$2000 CTS, Jake Zandstra - \$2000 CTS, Grant Mensonides - \$2000 CTS, Jessica Kuncaitis - \$2000 Kuyper College (Masters Prgm), Chad Boersma- \$2000.

9b- Reports from Ministry Committees and Servants of Classis cont'd:

- ix. **Church Counselors**—The CIC has appointed Counselors as needed for calling pastors to churches already having a pastor, doing so in compliance to a C.O. regulation. (*SC's note*)
- ix. **Regional Pastor**- George Vink stated that he experiences joy doing this work of contacting and encouraging our classis' pastors. He's glad to be available also to the pastors' churches.
- x. **Prayer Coordinator**-Felicia Bud continues to work with the churches' prayer coordinators.
- xi. **Communications Coordinator** —Daniel Maat once again provided a screen presentation indicating the Five Goals of Classis and their implementation. He continues meeting with communication representatives.

9c. Reports related to our denominational relationship-

- i. **Council of Delegates**-Dave Struyk reported earlier and will continue to serve on the COD.
- ii. **World Renew**-No interest in has been indicated in serving on the World Renew Board.
- iii. **Calvin Theological Seminary**- Classis voted on two names as part of Region 11. The voting resulted in: Rev. Scott Greenway -28 and Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollem ans-10.
- iv. **Calvin University**- Classis voted a unanimous YES on nominee Rev. Nate DeJong McCarron.

9d. Reports Sharing Ministry Information for Delegates

- i. **Faith Formation**-Laura Keeley shared materials including "Dear Parent" and "Everyday Family Faith" meant to encourage families in meaningful faith formation.,

****Prayer Time**- Dave Struyk updated classis on Paul Sausser's recovery from major surgery. Felecia Bud presented scripture and matters for prayer. Classis prayed as table groups, closing with laying on of hands and prayer for Pastor Randy Ledebouer anticipated kidney transplant.

WE DEPART

Chair Ruth Boven had prior to closing prayer time thanked the host church for its hospitality.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: OCTOBER 15, 2020 at PROVIDENCE CRC
Deadline for the Agenda: Wednesday, September 10, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
George Vink, Stated Clerk