

Minutes of the 146th Meeting of Classis Lake Erie of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

In Session March 4, 2017, at Ann Arbor Hope CRC, Ann Arbor, Michigan

[N.B.: These minutes do not necessarily present the actions of classis in chronological order.]

Members of Ann Arbor Hope Church lead classis in opening worship.

146.1.0 Classis Is Constituted.

- 1.1 Roll call indicates the presence of the following delegations from the churches and ministries of classis:

CHURCH	MINISTER	ELDER	DEACON
Akron	Harry Winters	Linda Barrett	
Ann Arbor: AACRC	John Groen	Karen Ludema	Matt Admiraal
Ann Arbor: Hope	Joseph Hun-Suk Bae	Brian Pyonggon Jung	Kicheol Lee
Charlotte	Bret McAtee		
Cleveland: East Side	David Kopea	Vivian Louis	Alicia Durett
Columbus: Olentangy	Bob Arbogast	Allen Nederveld	Sandy Thacker
Dearborn	Dan Jongsma	Dan Westra	Chris Williams
Detroit: 1st	Ben Van Arragon	Kristen Vandevusse	Josh Nyenhuis
E. Lansing: River Terrace	Ken Bieber	John Kaufmann	Erika Bridge
Imlay City	Dave Spoelma		Brad Kaeding
Jackson: Cascades Fellowship	Chris Lanham	Mike Huizenga	Beka Manson
Lansing: Hmong	Zongseng Vang	David Vang	Yee Vang
Rochester Hills: Han Bit	Christian Oh	Youngmo Kim	Seokchun Lee
Saginaw: Community	Nathan Gritter	Ted Gray	
Toledo: All Nations	Jung Un Park	David Lee	
Troy: North Hills	Randy Engle	Matthew Cooke	David Zijlstra
Willard	Terence Visser	Kirk Holthouse	Carter Holthouse
OTHER MINISTRIES			
Ann Arbor: Campus Chapel	Matt Ackerman		
E. Lansing: Campus Edge	Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink		

- 1.2 President John Groen welcomes delegates and guests to classis.
- 1.3 Twelve first-time delegates sign the *Covenant for Officebearers*.
- 1.4 The President declares classis to be constituted.

146.2.0 Financial Matters

- 2.1 Outgoing Treasurer Larry Fisher reports on the highlights of the 2016 Financial Statement.

A motion to approve the work of the Treasurer is *Adopted.*

- 2.2 Larry introduces incoming Treasurer Joe Creech (North Hills, Troy).

Classis expresses appreciation to Larry Fisher for his 25 years' service as Treasurer of classis.

Joe Creech makes a few remarks.

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146.3.0 Leadership Development

3.1 Examination of Candidate Rhonda Workman

- 3.1.1 John Groen introduces Rhonda to classis.

- 3.1.2 Phil Apol engages Rhonda in conversation in the area of *practica*.

Delegates pose additional questions.

A motion to proceed with the examination is *Adopted.*

- 3.1.3 The report of sermon evaluators Curt Roelofs and David Sung is received as information.

A motion to proceed with the examination is *Adopted.*

Synodical deputies Peter Borgdorff (Classis Grand Rapids East), Raymond Blacketer (Classis Grand Rapids South), and Douglas Fauble (Classis Grandville) express their concurrence.

- 3.1.4 Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink engages Rhonda in conversation in the area of biblical and theological position.

Delegates and synodical deputies pose additional questions.

- 3.1.5 A motion is made to admit candidate Rhonda Workman to the office of minister of the Word in accordance with Church Order Article 10.

In executive session the motion is *Adopted.*

Synodical deputies Peter Borgdorff (Classis Grand Rapids East), Raymond Blacketer (Classis Grand Rapids South), and Douglas Fauble (Classis Grandville) express their concurrence.

In open session, the president informs Rhonda Workman of the decision. With all of us gathered around her, Harry Winters offers a prayer for the Lord's blessing on Rhonda. Delegates and guests then express their welcome and congratulations to her.

3.2 Student support

Ben reports on student support and the morphing of Student Fund Committee into a full-fledged Classis Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT).

Ben responds to questions.

3.3 Status of Rev. Samuel Perry

A motion is made to approve the recommendation of River Terrace Church council that Rev. Samuel Perry be dismissed from the office of minister of the Word in accordance with Church Order Article 14c.

Grounds:

1. *Rev. Perry has entered into a non-ministerial vocation.*
2. *Rev. Perry has requested to be released from office.*
3. *Rev. Perry did not meet with the oversight committee, which was set up to determine his readiness to be eligible for call to another church in the CRCNA. (This is the ground for declaring him to be "dismissed" rather than "released.")*

In executive session, the motion is discussed and

Adopted.

Synodical deputies Peter Borgdorff (Classis Grand Rapids East), Raymond Blacketer (Classis Grand Rapids South), and Douglas Fauble (Classis Grandville) express their concurrence.

3.4 Faith Formation Ministries

Laura Keeley ("regional catalyzer") and Shannon Jamal-Hollemans ("collaborative program developer") make a presentation about the work of Faith Formation Ministries, introducing us to various tools. See crcna.org/faithformation.

3.5 Church visitors report

Ken Bieber and Dan Jongsma report on conversations with the council of Cascades Fellowship CRC (Jackson) related to its role as "caretaker" council for Charlotte CRC and as supervising council for Rev. Bret McAtee.

The report is received as information.

146.4.0 Denominational Involvement

4.1 Delegates to Synod

A motion to appoint the following delegates to Synod 2017 is

Adopted.

Minister: Nathan Gritter (Community, Saginaw)

Elder: Linda Barrett (Akron)

Deacon: Luanne England (Olentangy, Columbus)

Fourth: Ben Van Arragon (First, Detroit)

Alternate: Dave Spoelma (Imlay City)

4.2 Nominees to the Council of Delegates

A motion to nominate Susan Berends Medendorp (River Terrace, E. Lansing) and Laurie Harkema (River Terrace, E. Lansing) for membership on the soon-to-be-formed CRCNA Council of Delegates is

Adopted.

4.4 Synodical Deputy Appointment

A motion to reappoint synodical deputy Dave Spoelma for a second three-year term and synodical deputy alternate Randy Engle to a second three-year term is

Adopted.

146.5.0 Nurturing Communities

Chris Lanham reports for the Congregational Life committee.

5.1 Church counselor report: Cleveland East Side

Harry Winters reports that he has nothing to report.

146.6.0 Specialized Ministries

6.1 Nathan Gritter reports for the committee, noting the deadline for applying for financial support.

6.2 Campus Ministries

6.2.1 Campus Edge Fellowship

Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink reports on the ministry at Campus Edge.

6.2.2 Ann Arbor Campus Chapel

Matt Ackerman reports on current ministry at the Chapel.

A motion to approve the composition of the board of the Ann Arbor Chapel is

Adopted.

146.7.0 New Church Development

Dan Jongsma reports for the committee with comments on the printed report.

146.8.0 Administrative

8.1 Stated Clerk

The printed report is received as information.

A motion to approve the work of the Stated Clerk is *Adopted.*

8.2 Executive Committee

The printed report is received as information, with a note that Dan Jongsma will soon begin to serve as Vice-President, then President, of classis.

A motion to approve the work of the Executive Committee is *Adopted.*

146.9.0 Concluding Matters

9.1 The Lord willing, the next classis meeting will be October 7, 2017, hosted by Cleveland East Side.

9.2 The President expresses various acknowledgements and words of appreciation.

9.3 The Stated Clerk expresses thanks and appreciation for the work of the president.

President John Groen prays to conclude.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Arbogast, Stated Clerk

Appendix

Responses to Credentials Questions

Olentangy Church (Columbus)

Discussion Olentangy Church requests the prayers of the Classis as it nears the completion of the sale of its properties and pursues locating a church within the community with whom it can become partners in ministry as well as relocating its child care center.

Hmong Christian Ministry (Lansing)

Assistance: Prayer as we begin this new year with a new and different type of term(s). We are adopting a system which will stagger the four-year terms being served, with many officers being new to their position. This is still new to us but I believe that it will be very beneficial.