

Agenda Materials for the 149th meeting of
Classis Lake Erie
of the Christian Reformed Church
to be held in East Lansing, Ohio, Michigan, March 3, 2018

I. Reports for the Agenda

1. Stated Clerk (Ben Van Arragon, p. 3)
2. Executive Committee (Ken Bieber, pp. 3-4)
3. Treasurer (Joe Creech)
 - a. Financial reports (separate document)
 - b. 2018 Budget update

II. Ministry Committees

1. Specialized Ministries
 - a. (Nathan Gritter)
2. New Church Development
 - a. Committee report (Mark Van Anandel)
3. Leadership Development
 - a. (Randy Engle)
 - b. Release of Rev. Peter Choi via Article 14b
4. Congregational Life
 - a. (Chris Lanham)

III. Church Counselor Reports

1. East Side Cleveland (Harry Winters)
2. River Terrace (Chris Lanham/Ben Van Arragon)
3. Olentangy (Terence Visser)
4. Cleveland Zion (Jung Un Park) *formal request to affiliate with the CRCNA through Classis Lake Erie.

IV. Grant Reports

1. (Nathan Gritter)

V. Denominational

1. CRCNA Ministries (Steve Timmermans)
2. World Renew (Mary Rupke)
3. Resonate Global Mission (Carla Bieber)
4. Council of Delegates (Laurie Harkema)
5. Synodical Delegates selection

Other significant items will be added!

Covenant for Officebearers

(All first-time delegates to classis will be asked sign this document.)

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, which proclaims the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Acknowledging the authority of God's Word, we submit to it in all matters of life and faith.

We affirm three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—as ecumenical expressions of the Christian faith. In doing so, we confess our faith in unity with followers of Jesus Christ throughout all ages and among all nations.

We also affirm three confessions—the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort—as historic Reformed expressions of the Christian faith, whose doctrines fully agree with the Word of God. These confessions continue to define the way we understand Scripture, direct the way we live in response to the gospel, and locate us within the larger body of Christ.

Grateful for these expressions of faith, we promise to be formed and governed by them. We heartily believe and will promote and defend their doctrines faithfully, conforming our preaching, teaching, writing, serving, and living to them.

Along with these historic creeds and confessions, we also recognize the witness of Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony as a current Reformed expression of the Christian faith that forms and guides us in our present context.

We also promise to present or receive confessional difficulties in a spirit of love and fellowship with our brothers and sisters as together we seek a fuller understanding of the gospel. Should we come to believe that a teaching in the confessional documents is not the teaching of God's Word, we will communicate our views to the church, according to the procedures prescribed by the Church Order and its supplements. If the church asks, we will give a full explanation of our views. Further, we promise to submit to the church's judgment and authority.

We honor this covenant for the well-being of the church to the glory of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Stated Clerk's Report

1. Prepared and distributed the minutes of the November 9, 2017, meeting of classis.
2. Tended to various items of routine correspondence.
3. Corresponded with several congregations and church leaders in transition.
4. Prepared an agenda and minutes for the Executive Committee.
5. Prepared materials and made arrangements for the March 3, 2018, meeting of classis—this is a work in progress.

Executive Committee Report

I. Attendance

Ken Bieber, Paul Bouman, Joe Creech, and Ben Van Arragon are present

II. Continuing Business

- A. Treasurer. Joe Creech reports he is adjusting well to the “new” role, almost a year in.
- B. Classis President/Vice-President. Ken Bieber will continue to serve as Classis President through March, 2018. (**Note: CLE handbook states that each Classis president serve a term of one year. The Executive agrees to extend that term in this instance due to CLE's current leadership transition**). That said, due to a family medical situation, he may be unavailable to chair the March, 2018 meeting. Therefore a vice president is needed. The Executive Committee affirmed plan to assign the roles of president and vice president to pastors of CLE, going down the list alphabetically. Exceptions will be made for pastors already chairing committees of Classis, and those for whom English is a second language.
- C. Recruiting for additional Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee will solicit volunteers via email to Classis congregations.
- D. Other CLE roles: Leadership Development Committee; Regional Pastor (Ohio). It was noted that these two roles need to be filled; no suggestions were made as to who might fill them.
- E. Update: Olentangy CRC (Columbus OH). Ben will follow up with a member of Olentangy's leadership to get an update.

III. New Business

- A. New Website proposal. The Executive Committee agreed to invest up to \$500.00 in the development of a new Classis website. Ben will seek out a bid. The Executive Committee also recommends including “website” as an ongoing budget line item from this point forward.
- B. Signing “Ecclesiastical Credential for a Minister”: Sang Joon “Timothy” Won; US Military Chaplain, from Springing Fountain CRC (Buena Park, CA) to Ann Arbor Hope. Document was signed by President Ken Bieber and Stated Clerk Ben Van Arragon. Note: Formal call to AAHCRC required.
- C. Initiative to facilitate fellowship between Korean and Anglo leaders/congregations in CLE. The Executive Committee agreed that the

first step to facilitate said fellowship should be some informal meetings, over meals, between pastors. Ben and Ken agreed to initiate some meetings.

- D. CRC affiliation, Cleveland Zion CRC (Rev. Daniel Kim). Ben will follow up with Rev. Kim to ascertain whether Cleveland Zion's council is prepared to formalize a relationship with the CRCNA in order to extend a call to Rev. Kim.

IV. Preparation for March 2017 meeting of Classis

- A. Visitors. Special presentations will be made by Dr. Steve Timmermans, "state of the church" (30 min); Laurie Harkema, Council of Delegates (15 min); Laura Keeley, Faith Formation Ministries (15 min); Mary Rupke, World Renew (10 min).
- B. Article 14b, Rev. Peter Choi (release from ministerial service; to enter ordained ministry in RCA).
- C. Synodical Delegates to be selected (1 minister, 1 elder, 1 deacon, 1 "at large").
- D. Sustaining Pastoral Excellence. SPE has requested that the Pastors' Spouses' Conference and Pastors' Continuing Education Grants be promoted at Classis. The Executive Committee agreed to offer registration fee support for any pastors' spouses attending the conference from CLE.

Specialized Ministries Committee

New Church Development

Hesed Community Church – Mark Van Andel and Nate Bull continue to partner in this joint CRC /RCA venture on the west side of Detroit (22044 Lyndon St., Detroit, 48223). They provide for physical and spiritual needs including food, clothing, laundry, water, prayer, bible study, counseling and more. Four faithful neighborhood servants have been participating in an intense weekly discipleship process for the last 8 months. These disciples have participated in scripture study and memorization, identifying spiritual gifts, fasting, identifying and fighting nagging sin behaviors, ministry skills, and conflict resolution. The plan is to launch these disciples into leadership in the ministry both in that neighborhood and others across the city of Detroit in the coming year.

The ministry has deeply appreciated the investment from local CRC churches including First Detroit CRC, Dearborn Christian Fellowship, and North Hills CRC. We have enjoyed opportunities to preach and bring our discipleship group to worship in your congregations.

You can contact Mark and Nate at: hesedcc@gmail.com.

Joshua Speyers – Ben Van Arragon, Mark Van Anandel, and representatives from Resonate Global Mission have been in conversation with PCA minister Joshua Speyers over the past few months regarding his interest in transferring his ordination to the CRC and initiating a church planting work in the NW part of the city of Detroit. Please pray for discernment and wisdom for this process.