

Agenda Materials for the 147th meeting of
Classis Lake Erie
of the Christian Reformed Church
to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, October 7, 2017

I. Reports for the Agenda

1. Stated Clerk (Robert Arbogast, p. 3)
2. Executive Committee (Dan Jongsma, pp. 3-4)
3. Treasurer (Joe Creech)
 - a. Financial reports
 - b. Proposed 2018 Budget

II. Ministry Committees

1. Specialized Ministries
 - a. Committee report (Nathan Gritter, pp. 4-6)
2. New Church Development
 - a. Committee report (Dan Jongsma)
3. Leadership Development/Student Fund
 - a. Committee report (Ben Van Arragon)
 - b. Examination of Candidates Juli Stuelpnagel and Kendra Ettema
 - c. Release of Rev. KuGyong Koh
4. Congregational Life
 - a. Committee report (Chris Lanham)
 - b. Church Renewal Lab presentation

III. Church Counselor Reports

1. East Side Cleveland (Harry Winters)
2. River Terrace (Ben Van Arragon)

IV. Grant Reports

1. Saginaw/Caring Closet (p. 6)

V. Denominational

1. World Renew (Mary Rupke)
2. Resonate Global Mission presentation (Carla Bieber)
3. Synod Report (synod delegates)

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 March 4, 2017, meeting of classis.
2. Tended to various items of routine correspondence.
3. Prepared an agenda and minutes for the Executive Committee.
4. Prepared materials and made arrangements for the October 7, 2017, meeting of classis—this is a work in progress.
5. The clerk has accepted a call and will be leaving Classis Lake Erie. Ben Van Arragon has agreed to serve as the new stated clerk of classis, with the transition happening after the October 7, 2017, meeting.

Executive Committee Report

Minutes — June 15, 2017

I. Continuing Business

- A. Recording current committee membership
 1. Dan Jongsma is on-board as classis president.
 2. We now, once again, need a classis vice-president.
 3. The Clerk will prepare an updated classis ministry committee document to distribute with the classis agenda.
- B. Financial reports
 1. Review of classis financial records
 - a) For the year ending 12/31/2016: under the direction of Olentangy Church council the classis financial records were reviewed and found to be properly stated.
 - b) Joe Creech will make arrangements for future annual reviews of classis financial records.
 2. Joe reports that the classis treasurer is bonded under the denominational policy, therefore separate bonding is not necessary.
 3. Financial statements
 - a) Joe presents a set of year-to-date financial reports.
 - b) We discuss a variety of financial and financial policy questions.
- C. All Nations Community Church
 1. Status: The congregation is looking to downsize its space due to budget constraints. The church property is for sale. To date, there have been no viable offers.
 2. Needs: Pastor Jung Un Park inquires about the possibility of requesting a loan of \$40k to bridge the church until the property is sold. More to come on this one . . .
- D. Leadership Development
 1. We note that Brendan Stevens (River Terrace) was appointed to represent classis at a youth ministry conference, with classis covering some of the related expenses.
 2. Christian Oh and Jung Un Park plan to attend the CRC Korean Church Council conference in Amsterdam (fall 2017). We approve support for their attendance in the amount of \$2500 each. Monies will come from the All Church Development Fund.

II. Preparation for October 2017 Classis Meeting

- A. Candidate Juli Stuelpnagel will be examined.
 - 1. Practica examiner: The clerk will ask Gary DeVries (chaplain at Sparrow Hospital).
 - 2. Preaching
 - a) Assigned text: Luke 18:18-30
 - b) Community CRC, Saginaw, August 27
 - c) Sermon evaluators: TBD
 - 3. Theological examiner: TBD
- B. Status of Rev. Abe KuGyong Koh
 - 1. Rev. Koh will begin work in a PC(USA) congregation in New Jersey, in July 2017. At the October classis meeting we will process his release from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 14b.
 - 2. The clerk will inform Rev. Hyon Kim, Executive Presbyter of Eastern Korean-American Presbytery PC(USA) of this plan.
- C. Training on Clergy Mental Health
 - 1. In January 2017, we went on record supporting a training on the issue of clergy mental health, to be held at the October 2017 classis meeting.
 - 2. On reviewing the materials from the Office of Disability Concerns, we decide to forego the training until such time as ODC can provide or recommend a trained presenter. The clerk will inquire about this.
- D. For the upcoming agenda, the clerk will emphasize the completion of grant reports by all ministries receiving grant-funding from classis.

Specialized Ministries Committee

Support Recommendations for 2018

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>2017 aid given</u>	<u>2018 request</u>	<u>2018 recommended</u>
The Caring Closet	\$2000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Community Assist. Program	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Campus Edge	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
U-M Campus Ministry	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Arab-Amer. Friendship Center	\$17,400	\$17,400	\$17,400
Total:	\$55,400	\$55,400	\$55,400

The Caring Closet

The Caring Closet is a ministry birthed through the combined efforts of Community CRC in Saginaw and Growing Years Christian Child Care Center in Saginaw. It seeks to share the love of Jesus Christ with its community by giving away used clothing and spending time with those in need in the Saginaw area. The ministry prays for, fellowships with, and serves low income people in Saginaw.

2017 Funding: \$2,000 2018 Requested: \$2,000 2018 Recommended: \$2,000

Rationale: The committee sees this fruitfulness and wise (efficient) stewardship of funds in this ministry. In 2016, over 19,000 clothing/household items and over 13,000 food items were given away, serving over 2,300 people (including repeats). The ministry is also integrating the Word, handing out tracts and speaking to people about God. A handful of visitors to the ministry have come to worship at Community CRC. The committee recommends we continue to support the Caring Closet.

Community Assistance Program

CAP expresses Christ's love through a witness of mercy to inner city Detroit by feeding the hungry and providing counseling, advocacy, referrals, emergency help and other acts of mercy to thousands of people every year.

2017 Funding: \$6,000 2018 Requested \$6,000 2017 Recommended \$6,000

Rationale: Classis Lake Erie and 1st Detroit CRC have historically supported this ministry to the poor in Detroit. Based on conversation with staff, we see it wise to continue. In 2016, over 5,700 individuals received assistance (food, clothing, referrals, counseling). The ministry depends on our support as well as the support of CRC churches and individuals. The leader (full-time position) ministers materially and spiritually to people. She is well connected to the neighborhood.

CampusEdge Fellowship

CampusEdge Fellowship is a ministry to the graduate students, faculty, and staff of Michigan State University. Their mission is to provide a caring, Christian, campus community where passions of faith, learning, career, fellowship, and service come together and flourish.

2017 Funding: \$15,000 2018 Requested: \$15,000 2018 Recommended: \$15,000.

Rationale: We have historically supported this ministry and believe we should continue to, based on conversations with the ministry. The ministry has a special niche in ministering to graduate students. There is sufficient need to merit the amount. River Terrace CRC is very involved in this ministry.

U-M Ann Arbor Campus Chapel Ministry

The Campus Chapel ministry reaches UM students, faculty, staff and other interested persons in the Ann Arbor area. The Chapel hosts worship services, reaches out through discussion groups, lectures and seminars. This ministry also maintains a Christian study center, which is promoted among university faculty and students alike. Rolf Bouma and Matt Ackerman are on staff.

2017 Funding: \$15,000 2018 Request: 15,000 2018 Recommended: \$15,000

Rationale: We have historically supported this ministry and believe we should continue to do so. The chapel has various ministry activities such as worship, fellowship dinners, and one-on-one conversations with the chaplain. The ministry has sufficient need to warrant the amount.

Arab-American Fellowship Center

The Arab American Friendship Ministry demonstrates Christ's way and love to Arabs living in the US. Through English classes, citizenship classes and GED classes, the AAFC helps Arab immigrants to become acculturated to life in North America while creating opportunity to present Christ to Arabs. It gathers believers and inquirers into worship and Bible Study.

2017 Funding: \$17,400 2018 Request: \$17,400 2018 Recommended: \$17,400

Rationale: We have historically supported this ministry. We continue to see fruitfulness (including conversion stories) under the leadership of Dwight and Jean Billingsley. AAFC plans to use this money to fund Jean's position which is critical for reaching Muslim women. The ministry has significant financial needs. When these needs have not been met in the past, the leaders have received less salary. North Hills CRC is very involved in this ministry (financially and in volunteering).

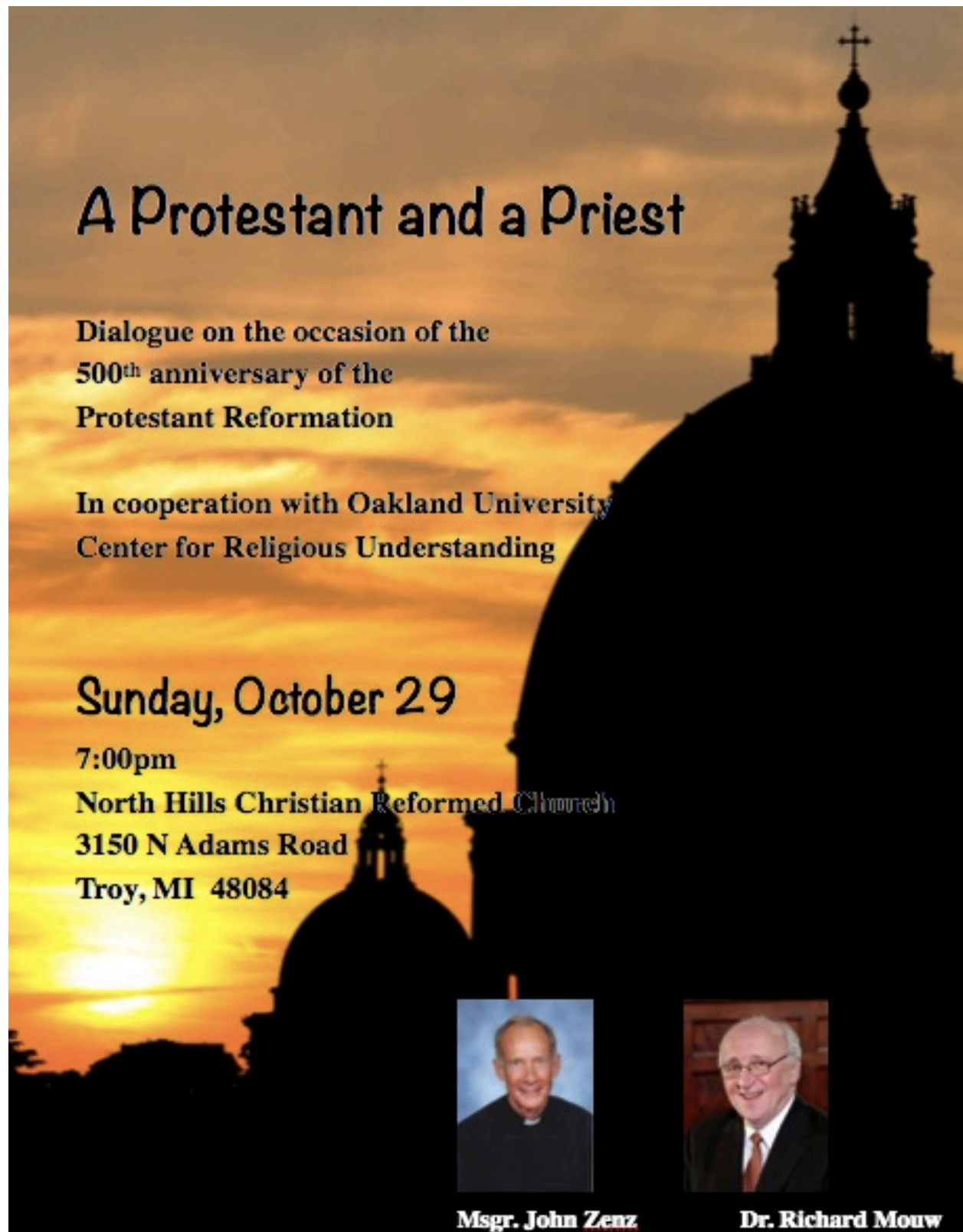
Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Gritter,
for CLE Specialized Ministries Committee
989 792 2465 (o)
989 792 4042 (h)
nathangritter@gmail.com

Grant Report

The Caring Closet thanks Classis Lake Erie for their continued support. In 2016, we served 2,384 people (including repeats) and gave away 29,727 clothing and household items, and 13,845 food items. The CLE annual grants (\$2,000 this year) pay for hot lunches that we serve to people who visit the Closet. This allows us to fellowship with people, listen to their stories, and sometimes pray with people and talk to them about God. We are grateful for your support.

Nathan Gritter
board member - The Caring Closet





A Protestant and a Priest

Dialogue on the occasion of the
500th anniversary of the
Protestant Reformation

In cooperation with Oakland University
Center for Religious Understanding

Sunday, October 29

7:00pm
North Hills Christian Reformed Church
3150 N Adams Road
Troy, MI 48084



Msgr. John Zenz **Dr. Richard Mouw**