

Minutes of the 147th Meeting of Classis Lake Erie of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

In Session October 7, 2017, at East Side CRC, Cleveland, Ohio

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

Members of East Side lead classis in opening worship.

147.1.0 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	James Brownlee
Ann Arbor: AACRC		Phillip Boonstra	Rachel Bush
Ann Arbor: Hope			
Charlotte			
Cleveland: East Side		Dianne Foster	Clinton Hall
Columbus: Olentangy	Bob Arbogast	Larry Fisher	Gayle Carpenter
Dearborn	Dan Jongsma	Ross Pursifull	Mike Hermen
Detroit: 1st	Ben Van Arragon	John Regnerus	Heather Dann
E. Lansing: River Terrace	Ken Bieber	Mark Menning	Karen Polischuk
Imlay City		Norm Tanis	
Jackson: Cascades Fellowship	Chris Lanham		
Lansing: Hmong	Zongseng Vang	David Vang	
Rochester Hills: Han Bit	Christian Oh	Joseph Jeong	
Saginaw: Community	Nathan Gritter	Stu Rupke	Mary Rupke
Toledo: All Nations	Jung Un Park		
Troy: North Hills	Randy Engle		
Willard		Jim Wiers	David Wiers
OTHER MINISTRIES			
Ann Arbor: Campus Chapel	Rolf Bouma		
E. Lansing: Campus Edge			

- 1.1.1 A motion to seat the delegation from Imlay City in the absence of credentials is ***Adopted.***
- 1.2 President Dan Jongsma welcomes delegates and guests to classis.
- 1.3 Nine first-time delegates sign the *Covenant for Officebearers*.

- 1.4 The President declares classis to be constituted.

147.2.0 Leadership Development

2.1 Examination of Candidates Juli Stuelpnagel and Kendra Ettema

2.1.1 Introductions

Nathan Gritter introduces Juli to classis.

Dave Spoelma introduces Kendra to classis.

2.1.2 *Practica*

Phil Apol engages Juli and Kendra in conversation in the area of *practica*.

A motion to proceed with the examination is

Adopted.

2.1.3 Sermon evaluation

The report of Juli's sermon evaluators (John Wildeboer and Carla Bieber) is received as information.

Delegates and deputies pose a few questions.

A motion to proceed with Juli's examination is

Adopted.

Synodical deputies James Dekker (Classis Niagara), Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North), and Ronald Goudzwaard (Classis Thornapple Valley) express their concurrence.

The report of Kendra's sermon evaluators (Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink and Carla Bieber) is received as information.

Delegates and deputies pose a few questions.

A motion to proceed with Kendra's examination is

Adopted.

Synodical deputies James Dekker (Classis Niagara), Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North), and Ronald Goudzwaard (Classis Thornapple Valley) express their concurrence.

2.1.4 Biblical and Theological Position

Harry Winters engages Juli and Kendra in conversation in the area of biblical and theological position.

Delegates and synodical deputies pose additional questions.

2.1.5 Motions to admit

A motion is made to admit candidate Juli Stuelpnagel to the office of minister of the Word in accordance with Church Order Article 10.

In executive session the motion is *Adopted.*

Synodical deputies James Dekker (Classis Niagara), Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North), and Ronald Goudzwaard (Classis Thornapple Valley) express their concurrence.

A motion is made to admit candidate Kendra Ettema to the office of minister of the Word in accordance with Church Order Article 10.

In executive session the motion is *Adopted.*

Synodical deputies James Dekker (Classis Niagara), Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North), and Ronald Goudzwaard (Classis Thornapple Valley) express their concurrence.

Note: After discussion of the motions, Randy Engle offered a prayer for the Spirit's guidance.

In open session, the president informs Juli and Kendra of the decisions. With all of us gathered around them, Chris Lanham offers a prayer for the Lord's blessing on Juli and Kendra. Delegates and guests express their welcome and congratulations.

Note: Regional pastor Chris Lanham will ensure that mentors are appointed for both Juli and Kendra.

Note: Ordination dates for Juli and Kendra are yet to be determined.

2.2 Credential of Rev. Sang Hee Han

A motion to approve the ecclesiastical credential of Rev. Sang Hee Han, who has accepted a call from Sunrise Community CRC of Austin, TX, (Classis Rocky Mountain), is *Adopted.*

2.3 Student Support Recommendations

Ben Van Arragon reports and responds to questions.

A motion to approve the following student support recommendation is *Adopted.*

Seong Jun Kim: \$6,000.00

Brad Stolman: \$12,500.00

2.4 Status of Rev. Abe KuGyong Koh

Note: Rev. Koh began work in a PC(USA) congregation in New Jersey, in July 2017.

A motion that Rev. Abe KuGyong Koh be honorably released from the office of minister of the Word under Church Order Article 14b is *Adopted.*

Synodical deputies James Dekker (Classis Niagara), Henry Admiraal (Classis Grand Rapids North), and Ronald Goudzwaard (Classis Thornapple Valley) express their concurrence.

2.5 Acknowledgement of Support

Christian Oh expresses thanks for classis' support for him and Jung Un Park to attend the recent CRC Korean Church Council conference in Amsterdam.

147.3.0 Denominational Involvement

3.1 World Renew

Mary Rupke offers a brief report, highlighting responses to recent hurricanes and to other disasters worldwide and encouraging the churches to support the work of World Renew and its leaders

3.2 Resonate

Carla Bieber reports briefly regarding her work as Local Mission Leader with Resonate Global Mission.

3.3 Report from Synod Delegates

Nathan Gritter and Ben Van Arragon report briefly about Synod 2017.

3.4 Synodical Deputy Appointment

A motion to appoint Randy Engle to a three-year term as synodical deputy is *Adopted.*

A motion to appoint Chris Lanham to a three-year term as alternate synodical deputy is *Adopted.*

147.4.0 Nurturing Communities

4.1 Chris Lanham reports for the Congregational Life committee.

4.2 Church counselor reports

4.2.1 Cleveland East Side (re: calling a pastor)

Harry Winters reports that he has nothing to report.

4.2.2 River Terrace (re: calling a senior pastor)

Ben Van Arragon reports that the church is in conversation with a potential candidate.

4.2.3 1st Detroit (re: calling a church planter)

Randy Engle reports that he has nothing to report yet.

147.5.0 Specialized Ministries

- 5.1 Nathan Gritter reports for the committee.

A motion to approve the following specialized ministry funding is

Adopted.

The Caring Closet: \$2,000
Community Assist. Program: \$6,000
Campus Edge: \$15,000
U-M Campus Ministry: \$15,000
Arab-Amer. Friendship Center: \$17,400
Total: \$55,400

5.2 Campus Ministries

- 5.2.1 Campus Edge Fellowship

[Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink's report is in the appendix to these minutes.]

- 5.2.2 Ann Arbor Campus Chapel

Rolf Bouma reports on current ministry at the Chapel, with thanksgiving for the ongoing support of classis.

147.6.0 New Church Development

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

He notes that the committee will need a new chairperson.

147.7.0 Administrative

7.1 Treasurer

Joe Creech reports.

A motion to approve the proposed budget for 2018 (see following p. 6 of these minutes) is

Adopted.

A motion to approve the work of the Treasurer is

Adopted.

7.2 Stated Clerk

The printed reports are received as information.

In addition, the clerk reports that he has recruited Ben Van Arragon as his replacement.

- 7.2.1 A motion to appoint Ben Van Arragon as stated clerk (when the current clerk wraps up his work) is

Adopted.

[Ben's contact information is in the appendix to these minutes.]

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

7.3 Executive Committee

The printed report is received as information, with a note that, once again and urgently, we need a President and Vice-president of classis.

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

147.8.0 Concluding Matters

8.1 The Lord willing, the next classis meeting will be November 9, 2017, beginning at 4:00 p.m., hosted by All Nations Community Church, Toledo.

8.2 The next regular meeting is scheduled on March 3, 2018, at ??

8.2 The President expresses various acknowledgements and words of appreciation.

8.3 Classis expresses its appreciation to Bob Arbogast for his seventeen years' service as stated clerk.

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

President Dan Jongsma prays to conclude.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Arbogast, Stated Clerk

CLASSIS LAKE ERIE BUDGET 2018 (10/07/2017)

	2017	2018	CHANGE
	BUDGET	BUDGET	2018 vs 2017
<u>CLASSICAL EXPENSE</u>			
Meetings	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous (Mentoring, Counselors etc.)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Church Visiting	500.00	0.00	(500.00)
Clerk	4,250.00	4,250.00	0.00
Treasurer	4,250.00	4,250.00	0.00
CLASSICAL EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$ (500.00)
<u>COMMITTEES EXPENSE</u>			
Executive	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Congregation Life	250.00	250.00	0.00
New Church Development	750.00	750.00	0.00
Leadership Development	250.00	250.00	0.00
Specialized Ministries	250.00	250.00	0.00
COMMITTEES EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
<u>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</u>			
Jackson - Congregational Youth Leader	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -
Web Page			0.00
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TOTAL	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -
<u>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</u>			
Retreats/EVENTS			0.00
Student Assistance	\$ 15,015.00	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 3,485.00
Safe Church Team	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Sabbatical Fund	5,025.00	5,025.00	0.00
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	\$ 21,040.00	\$ 24,525.00	\$ 3,485.00
<u>NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT</u>			
Detroit KEZ - Neighborhood House Churches (Van Anandel)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
Detroit Church Plant (CRC & RCA)	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
<u>SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES</u>			
Ann Arbor Campus Chapel - Classical Support	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Saginaw - Caring Closet	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Dearborn - Arab-American Friendship Center	17,400.00	17,400.00	0.00
Detroit - Community Assistance Program	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
River Terrace - Campus Edge Fellowship - MSU	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES TOTAL	\$ 55,400.00	\$ 55,400.00	\$ -
<u>YOUTH MINISTRIES</u>			
Undesignated			
YOUTH MINISTRIES TOTAL			
TOTAL	\$ 103,640.00	\$ 106,625.00	\$ 2,985.00
PERCENT CHANGE			2.88%
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS 18 YEARS AND OLDER			2,052
SHARE AMOUNT PER MEMBER			\$ 75.00

<u>CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>			
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	

<u>SMALL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND</u>			
CLE Michigan Ministers Peer Group	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	(1,500.00)
CLE Ohio Ministers Peer Group	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
SMALL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT FUND TOTAL	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	(1,500.00)

Appendix

Responses to Credentials Questions

River Terrace (E. Lansing)

Assistance: We hope that we will require the assistance of the Classical Counselor in signing off on calling a Pastor of Worship and Pastoral Care for River Terrace Church this fall.

Cascades Fellowship (Jackson)

Assistance: Continued support for our youth ministry.

Report from Campus Edge

As mentioned at the last Classis meeting, I (Brenda) was on maternity leave for most of the summer. Thankfully, Jess, one of our student leaders, was able to lead things during the time I was away. For the summer studies, Jess led 20+ individuals through a book series called All of the Ideas Living in My Head by Don Everts (InterVarsity Press). Some of the questions that this book study prompted our group to wrestle with were: to what extent can do we have control of the “ideas living in our heads”? Can there be true tolerance in a pluralistic society? Does the Bible communicate the same message to all people at all times? What is evil, and why does it exist in our world? Overall, this book series prompted us to consider how we think about (and by extension, live out) faith in a world with few easy answers; how can we better love God (and others) with of our hearts, souls, and minds? It gives me joy that the Reformed faith tradition does not try to dismiss these difficult questions with simplistic answers but instead encourages people to continue to ask hard questions and seek God fully with their intellect.

During her time leading, Jess noted that she "frequently heard how Campus Edge Fellowship has been a safe, welcoming place for graduate students seeking community and faith-focused conversations." Thank you very much for your support in making this happen. Please pray that we might continue to be a welcoming place where people can talk about complicated questions related to faith. Please also pray that Campus Edge might be effective in reaching out to the graduate and professional communities at MSU, especially those who are struggling. Graduate school can be an overwhelming and lonely time for many people.

If you'd like to read more about what we've been up to at Campus Edge, including insights from our fall studies on Genesis and naming God, I encourage you to visit our website: <https://campusedgemsu.com/reflections/>

New Stated Clerk

Ben Van Arragon will begin work as stated clerk of classis by the end of October 2017. His contact info is as follows:

ben.vanarragon@gmail.com
(313) 443-5446