

Minutes of the 144th Meeting of Classis Lake Erie of the Christian Reformed Church in North America In Session March 5, 2016, at Dearborn (Michigan) Christian Fellowship

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

Dan Jongsma and several members of Dearborn Christian Fellowship lead classis in opening worship.

144.1.0 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			
Ann Arbor: AACRC	John Groen	Victor Chen	Don Streng
Ann Arbor: Hope	Joseph Hun-Suk Bae	David Sung	
Charlotte	Bret McAtee		
Cleveland: East Side	Purnell Sweeney	Vivian Louis	Alice Durett
Columbus: Olentangy	Robert Arbogast	Allen Nederveld	Bob Hawk
Dearborn	Dan Jongsma	Bob DeRoo	Will Polo
Detroit: 1st	Ben Van Arragon	Keith Battjes	Jon Kalmink
E. Lansing: River Terrace	Ken Bieber	Robert Young	Timothy Blamer
Imlay City			
Jackson: Cascades Fellowship	Chris Lanham	Gary Adams	
Lansing: Hmong	Wa Chao Vue	Yia Yang	David Vang
Rochester Hills: Han Bit	Christian Oh	Taeju Oh	Suckchun Lee
Saginaw: Community	Nathan Gritter	Ted Gray	Lisa Gray
Toledo: All Nations	Jung Un Park	David Lee	Sung Bae
Troy: North Hills	Randall Engle	Dan Asma	Janice Krum
Willard		Sue Fridsma	Ruth Danhoff
OTHER MINISTRIES			
Ann Arbor: Campus Chapel	Matt Ackerman, Rolf Bouma		
E. Lansing: Campus Edge	Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink		

- 1.2 President John Groen welcomes delegates and guests to classis.

- 1.3 Eight first-time delegates sign the *Covenant for Officebearers*.
- 1.4 The President declares classis to be constituted.

144.2.0 Leadership Development

2.1 Examination of Candidate Brandon Kim

- 2.1.1 Joseph HunSuk Bae introduces the candidate to classis.
- 2.1.2 JungUn Park engages the candidate in conversation in the area of *practica*.

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

- 2.1.3 Chris Lanham presents the sermon evaluators' report.

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

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

[N.B. A third synodical deputy, Douglas Fauble (Classis Grandville), was unable to be present due to a death in his congregation.]

- 2.1.4 Nathan Gritter engages the candidate in conversation in the area of biblical and theological position.

Delegates pose additional questions.

- 2.1.5 A motion is made to admit candidate Brandon Kim to the office of Minister of the Word according to Church Order Article 10a and related regulations.

In executive session the motion is *Adopted.*

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

The president informs Brandon Kim of the decision. Delegates and guests offer their welcome and congratulations to Brandon and his wife Soyeon Kim.

2.2 Loan of Rev. Dongwon Na

A motion to approve the request of the council of Han-Bit Korean CRC to loan Rev. Dongwon Na to Waldorff Calvary Church (Waldorff, Maryland) according to Church Order Article 13c and related regulations is *Adopted.*

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

2.3 Approval of Position Description for Commissioned Pastor

A motion to approve a position description at Hmong Christian Ministry (Lansing, Michigan) as consistent with the office of commissioned pastor according to Church Order Article 23a and related regulations is *Adopted.*

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

[N.B. The position description is in the Appendix to these minutes.]

2.4 Article 17 Separation of River Terrace Church/Rev. Sam Perry

[N.B. This part of the meeting took place in executive session. The full minutes of that session are in the official record of classis, but are not included in this public document.]

2.4.4 A recommendation that classis approve the request from River Terrace CRC and Rev. Sam Perry for the release of Rev. Perry from active ministerial service in the River Terrace CRC pursuant to Church Order Article 17 is *Adopted.*

2.4.10 A recommendation that classis express its gratitude to the church visitors, to the River Terrace CRC council, and to Rev. Perry for their participation in this process and that classis pledge its continued prayers for healing towards future ministry for both church and pastor is *Adopted.*

2.4.11 Synodical deputies Raymond Blacketer (Classis Grand Rapids South) and Peter Borgdorff (Classis Grand Rapids East) express their concurrence with the decisions of classis on this matter.

2.5 Student support

Ben Van Arragon reports for the Leadership Development Committee.

Anthony Sytsma addresses classis briefly. He was formerly supported by classis during his seminary days and, with his wife, will soon begin work with World Renew in Kenya.

2.6 Credentialing of Melody Van Arragon

Classis notes the following with gratitude to God:

Melody Van Arragon was recently awarded a credentialed status in the area of Music Ministry by the Office of Pastor-Church Relations on behalf of the Christian

Reformed Church in North America. Melody is currently a member of the ministry staff at First CRC of Detroit as the Worship Coordinator.

144.3.0 Nurturing Communities

3.1 Safe Church Team

Ed Williams reports on the work of the Safe Church ministry.

3.2 Ann Arbor Hope CRC: Approval of Organized Status

A motion to approve Ann Arbor Hope CRC's request to become an organized congregation and to elect a council according to the provisions of Church Order Article 38b is *Adopted.*

[N.B. The official celebration of this new status will be on April 10, at which time Candidate Brandon Kim will be ordained to the office of minister of the Word.]

144.4.0 Denominational Involvement

4.1 Synod 2016

4.1.1 Introduction of Synodical Reports

Rolf Bouma introduces the synodical report on Pastoral Guidance re Same-Sex Marriage and responds to questions from the floor.

Dirk Evans introduces the synodical report on the Doctrine of Discovery.

4.1.2 Election of Delegates to Synod 2016

We elect the following delegation to Synod 2016:

Minister: Robert Arbogast
Elder: Jim Nicholas
Deacon: Luanne England
Fourth: Matt Ackerman

First alternate: Nathan Gritter
Second alternate: Vivian Louis

4.2 World Renew

A motion to approve the reappointment of Mary Rupke as classis' delegate to the World Renew board is *Adopted.*

144.5.0 Specialized Ministries

5.1 Nathan Gritter reports for the committee, pointing to the funding application process.

5.2 Campus Ministries

5.2.1 Campus Edge Fellowship

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

5.2.2 Ann Arbor Campus Chapel

Matt Ackerman reports on current ministry at the Chapel.

144.6.0 New Church Development

Dan Jongsma reports for the committee with comments on the printed report. In particular, he notes new developments connected with the Detroit Kingdom Enterprise Zone and the possibilities of new church plants.

144.7.0 Administrative

7.1 Treasurer

Various financial reports are received as information.

A motion to approve the work of the Treasurer is

Adopted.

7.2 Stated Clerk

The printed reports are received as information.

A motion to approve the work of the Stated Clerk is

Adopted.

7.3 Executive Committee

The printed reports are received as information.

A motion to approve the work of the Executive Committee is

Adopted.

144.8.0 Concluding Matters

- 8.1 The next classis meeting will be October 8, 2016, hosted by River Terrace Church.
- 8.2 The President expresses various acknowledgements and words of appreciation.
- 8.3 The Stated Clerk expresses thanks and appreciation for the work of the president.
Pat Zandstra prays to conclude.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Arbogast, Stated Clerk

Appendix

Responses to Credentials Questions

Dearborn Christian Fellowship

Assistance: Guidelines for Benevolence

Cascades Fellowship CRC

Assistance: We would like to thank CLE for the continued support of our Youth Ministry. God continues to prosper the work CLE has underwritten.

East Side Ministry Status Report

We are happy to report that another New Members class has started. People from the community have been attending services quite regularly, and have already been active in helping with special events. Our Tuesday evening Bible Study has also added a few new attendees from the community. Exciting and encouraging.

Commissioned Pastor Position Description

1. Prepare to teach/preach God's Word weekly. Encourage members in their walk with Christ and train members for service at Hmong Christian Ministry (HCM) and in God's kingdom. Administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.
2. Meet with and/or have a good relationship with all committees and church members. Spend time with the youth, women's group and men's group during their meetings as time permits.
3. Set a time throughout the week for prayer meetings and for visitation of members who request visits.
4. Attend meetings of Classis Lake Erie.
5. Attend classes or training sessions as time allows. Notify HCM before attending such events.
6. Teach those who will become new members of the church and/or those ready to make Profession of Faith, about God's Word (the Bible) and about the doctrines and practices of the Christian Reformed Church.
7. Prepare to bring God's Word at significant events in members' lives such as weddings, funerals, birthdays, and the like.
8. Prepare regular reports to the HCM Council about your activities on behalf of HCM.
9. Follow the guidelines for the office of Commissioned Pastor set forth in the Commissioned Pastor Handbook published by the Christian Reformed Church N.A.
10. Perform other duties as may be agreed by HCM and pastor.
11. Pastor shall be devoted to Jesus and committed to the church and its mission.
12. The position of Commissioned Pastor at HCM is a part time position. HCM recognizes that pastor has full time employment in addition to pastor's responsibilities at HCM. Pastor shall

devote no more than 14 hours per week to pastor's duties at HCM as described in this Position Description, but is not required to spend more time than this. Pastor shall be paid for his service as specified in a letter of agreement between pastor and HCM.