

Agenda Materials for the 146th meeting of
Classis Lake Erie
of the Christian Reformed Church
to be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 4, 2017

I. Reports for the Agenda

1. Stated Clerk (Robert Arbogast, p. 3)
2. Executive Committee (John Groen, pp. 3-4)
3. Treasurer (Larry Fisher / Joe Creech)

II. Ministry Areas

1. Specialized Ministries
 - a. Committee report (Nathan Gritter)
2. New Church Development
 - a. Committee report (Dan Jongsma, p. 5)
3. Leadership Development / Student Fund
 - a. Committee report (Ben Van Arragon)
 - b. Examination of Candidate Rhonda Workman
 - c. Status of Sam Perry
4. Congregational Life
 - a. Committee report (Chris Lanham)

III. Church Counselor Reports

1. East Side Cleveland (Harry Winters)

IV. Grant Reports

V. Denominational

1. World Renew: Mary Rupke
2. Election of Synodical Delegates
3. Nomination to Council of Delegates
4. Reappointment of synodical deputies
5. Presentation from Faith Formation Ministries

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 October 8, 2016, meeting of classis.
2. Tended to various items of routine correspondence.
3. Prepared agenda and minutes for the Executive Committee.
4. Prepared materials for the March 4, 2017, meeting of classis—this is a work in progress.

Classis Lake Erie Executive Committee

Minutes — January 12, 2017

I. Attendance

John Groen, JungUn Park, Paul Bouman, Larry Fisher, Eunice Bossenbrook, Joe Creech, and Bob Arbogast are present.

II. Continuing Business

A. Treasurer

1. We approve the appointment of Joe Creech (North Hills, Troy) as treasurer of classis.
2. We welcome Joe to Executive Committee.
3. We express thanks and appreciation to Larry Fisher for his many years of work as treasurer.
4. We instruct Larry and Joe to see to it that the treasurer be bonded. We also encourage them to recruit an assistant/alternate treasurer.
5. Larry provides a report on 2016 receipts.

B. Classis President/Vice-President

1. We acknowledge our inability to recruit president and vice-president candidates, especially lay members.
2. Upon reflection, we think it best to recruit from among clergy in classis and instruct the stated clerk to do so.

C. Classis Ministry Leadership Team

1. Church Order Article 43a requires that "every classis shall maintain a student fund and a Classical Ministerial Leadership Team (CMLT) to provide support and encouragement for individuals preparing for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church."
2. Our classis structure does include a Leadership Development Committee, but the only portion of its mandate that receives ongoing attention is student funding. (Thanks to Ben Van Arragon and Randy Engle.)
3. Matters related to calling and to preparation for ministerial office have become increasingly varied and complex. A CMLT looks after these issues, which go far beyond student funding.
4. With the foregoing in mind, we think it best to replace the Leadership Development Committee with a combination Student Fund Committee/CMLT. We will ask Ben and Randy to serve as the core of the new entity and to gather others around them.
5. CMLT mandate and tasks are outlined here: http://www2.crcna.org/pages/journey_partners_C.cfm.

- D. All Nations Community Church: The process of becoming an “organized” congregation is on hold; the church is regrouping due to some membership losses and an inability to meet financial obligations.
- E. Executive Committee will consider the need for a new Ohio churches regional pastor.

III. Preparation for March 2017 meeting of Classis.

- A. Council of Delegates
The clerk will send an information document to the classis email list about the soon-to-be-formed Council of Delegates (COD). The churches of classis will be invited to submit nominations for COD delegate from classis. We will vote at the classis meeting.
- B. Synod
 1. June 9-15, Palos Heights, Illinois.
 2. Reports (none posted yet).
 3. Delegates: nominees for all offices will be solicited from the churches.
- C. A presentation from CRCNA Faith Formation Ministries is scheduled (Laura Keeley)
- D. Sam Perry
River Terrace council is recommending that Sam Perry be dismissed from office under Church Order Article 14.
- E. Examination of Rhonda Workman (to be a minister of the Word)
We instruct the clerk to appoint examiners and sermon evaluators:
 1. Practica examiner: Phil Apol
 2. Biblical/Theological examiner: Brenda Kronemeijer-Heyink
 3. Sermon evaluators (assigned sermon on Psalm 119:33-40): Curt Roelofs and ??
- F. Training on Clergy Mental Health
We instruct the clerk to refer the relevant materials to the churches. We will plan for a presentation in October 2017
- G. Synodical deputy and alternate
We recommend that our deputy (Dave Spoelma) and alternate (Randy Engle) be reappointed to a second term.

New Church Development Committee

UPDATE on Detroit Kingdom Enterprise Zone

Pastor Jon Beyer (Grace RCA in Canton, MI) and Pastor Dan Jongsma (Dearborn Christian Fellowship) have served as co-leaders for this particular zone since 2011. The purpose of these zones is to foster collaborative work between the CRC and the RCA that intentionally strengthens our existing churches and helps start new churches. The Detroit Lead Team has been meeting for several years now. This team includes a Prayer Coordinator, Pastor Bruce Hunt from Grace RCA in Allen Park; a Communications Coordinator, Regina Reid from Nardin Park RCA; and a Community Development specialist, Mark Van Anandel, Ben Van Arragon from First Detroit CRC, as well as Jon and Dan. Here are some of the current things we are celebrating as a KEZ:

- **Hesed Community Church** – this church planting work has continued to develop through 2016 and into 2017. Pastor Nate Bull (an ordained African-America evangelist in the RCA) has received full endorsement from his denomination and classis for this work. The base of operations for this ministry is a house in the Brightmoor district of Detroit. From this central location at 22044 Lyndon St. in Detroit, Nate and Mark Van Anandel have been hosting lunches, holding Bible studies and meeting neighbors through street ministry and meeting practical needs. One family in the neighborhood was without a furnace and hot water heater as fall turned to winter. Through relationships with Grace Canton Church, they were able to secure a new hot water heater and a technician to fix the furnace. Needless to say, the family has been so grateful and has been involved in the Bible study regularly as a result. Also, one neighbor has volunteered to open the house for neighbors each morning to provide coffee and oatmeal to anyone who desires a warm place and refreshments. Nate is available to preach in local CRCs when the need arises. He would welcome the opportunity to share his ministry vision with you. Contact him at: hosedcc@gmail.com.
- **Mark Van Anandel** — Mark is completing his M.Div. degree this spring as well as requirements for candidacy as a Minister of the Word in the CRC. First CRC of Detroit is partnering with Mark in his process of ordination. Mark and Nate Bull have been coordinating their efforts in church planting in Detroit through a monthly worship gathering starting in November 2016. This gathering is comprised of four different neighborhood/house church communities across the city of Detroit including the Hesed Community Church group from the Brightmoor neighborhood. The Detroit KEZ has also pledged financial support to Mark's ministry. Presently he is licensed to preach and is available as pulpit supply to our churches. You can contact him at: mvanandel3@calvinseminary.edu
- **A Leadership Development Learning Community (LDLC)** has been formed with 5 participating churches. In order to be effective, churches need leaders at all levels, serving in all areas of ministry, inside and outside the walls of the church. With this in mind, a LDLC was launched in August 2016. Over the next two years, this group will gather four times for two-day retreats (Friday – Saturday). The LDLC is comprised of senior pastors and ministry leaders (a team of 3-5 ministry leaders from each church) who are passionate about developing a leadership pipeline that will work within their specific context. Pastor Eddy Aleman, Director of Leadership Development in the RCA, and Pastor Jon Beyer oversee this learning community. On-going coaching is also provided in between gatherings to encourage and empower teams forward toward execution of their action plans.
- **The Block Party Trailer** will again be made available for rent this coming spring, summer and fall for RCA and CRC churches in the Detroit Metro area. Several different families from several different churches and church members have used its content to meet and serve their neighbors. More information about this effective outreach tool can be found on our website: www.blockpartydetroit.org.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dan Jongsma
Chairperson of the New Church Development Committee