

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Executive Committee

1. Treasurer's Report.
  - Fund balance: \$175,600. Budget shows -\$41,160, which is due to payment of Assessments.
  - Haven Shores property management is moved under Bethel Fund. Rental income and expense should be under Bethel since the property and expenses can be together. We have the understanding that when the property is sold, we can make a final decision at that time about the disposal of the income. **Action>** Approved that the Bethel fund will show all expenses for this property management.
2. Coordinator/Stated Clerk
  - Approval for Executive committee minutes: March 7 **Action>** Approved.
  - Approval of Stated Session: March 28, 2017. **Action>** Approved, Place on consent agenda.
  - Approval of Special Sessions: March 26, 3 and 5 pm. **Action>** Approved, Place on consent agenda.
  - Delegate preparation meetings are happening now.
  - Maintenance improvements at the Hiawatha property. We need to do some landscaping around the building and work on the parking lot itself and the area around it. Church members will do the labor. Classis supplies the materials.
  - Appointment to GLR Executive Committee. **Action>** Approved appointment of Glenda McKinley for the two-year appointment to the Great lakes Synod Executive Committee.
3. Multi-Cultural Coordinator Report (Angel) Written report is attached.
4. A report of the Great Lakes Synod by shared by Judy Nelson. Synod met Monday, May 1. The synod is sending overtures to General Synod to clarify its "Declarative Authority." Then to make a declaration regarding the definition of Marriage as one man, one woman. And third to make a declaration clarify that Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 108-9 means that "all unchastity" includes same-sex marriage.
5. Stewardship & Finance Committee Chair Bill Paarlberg reported that our Bethel Fund investment has been realigned to comply with our investment policy. We are now as close to the policy-defined mix as possible. The committee will look at revising the Classis investment policy this year, since it is becoming dated.
6. Personnel Committee Chair Nick Knebl reported that
  - He has met with Angel Lopez to discuss Angel's position description as related to the demands on Angel's time and tasks. No action at this time.
  - Nick announced that the committee has heard from Marylynn and Larry that they are recommending that a transition begin toward retirement and replacement. **Action>** The Executive Committee will become the study team to consider a design for the next era of this two positions. When the design is ready, then a search team will be formed. The Executive team will begin their work this month. The earliest new classis staff would be set in place is January 2017. The announcement allows the classis to take the time it needs to determine its next future steps.
7. At the March 28 Classis meeting, the following motion was approved:  
"M/S/C to refer to the Executive Committee the exploration of the possibility of providing funds to assist with immigration needs. The Executive shall report back to the Classis." **Action>** The Executive

Committee will continue to discuss this topic when it meets on May 16. The current thinking is to provide a grant which Angel may administer in working with churches and agencies. Details need to be addressed yet so a final decision has not been made.

#### Church Multiplication Team

The CMT is meeting on May 15, so it does not have a report that can be included at this time.

Classis funds were used in April to provide assistance to Latino pastors and our CMT chair to attend the Church planting Expo event in FL.

#### Commissioned Pastor Support & Supervision Committee

1. The committee discussed the changes that are occurring with the Church Leadership Center (CLC). These changes are particularly driven by a change in the manner in which the agency funds itself. Staff persons Jim Lankheet and Ron Greendyke have or soon will depart from the agency. CLC will depend on each Classis to more closely monitor their candidates and assure complacency with the training plan that is set for each candidate.
  - a. Psychological evaluations shall be received by the Classis committee rep instead of CLC. The Mentor already receives these evaluations. Both persons shall work with the candidate.
  - b. Background check for entry into the program shall be done by the consistory as part of their approval process.
  - c. Dawn Vagle is our primary evaluator. Don Topp may also be used. Other choices for this role requires CPSS approval.
2. Candidate Ron Greendyke has withdrawn from the Commissioned Pastor training program. The committee has acknowledged this action and is following up on the details of this announcement.
3. Commissioning for Lisa Urivez-Karp. We are waiting for Zeeland Classis to possibly take action on determining next steps for Lisa since she is serving in one of their church plants. Discussions have taken place at Christ Memorial Church about possible next steps with Lisa's commissioning.
4. Candidate Dan Brown is taking classes and making progress. Since CLC is not doing the required background check, CPSS asked his church to do so. This was completed. No issues found. Dan will complete his psych evaluation through Dawn.
5. Candidate Chris Gibson is enrolled in the Old Testament class. Christ Memorial Elder Sally Tapley will serve as his classis rep to our committee.
6. CPSS will encourage candidates to meet with us at least annually in addition to the presence of their classis rep.

#### Church Support & Supervision Committee

1. April 27 "Classis Connects" Event. Time > 3:30 – 5:30p. Thanks to Jeanette and Beth for planning the details of this gathering. We were a little disappointed with attendance.
2. Contract Templates and Information Packet. Much thanks to Dewey and Larry for putting this material together. We have been concerned about the misunderstanding that classis involvement isn't needed with early terminations in contract arrangements. Classis shall be involved in these actions by a consistory and minister.

**Action>** We updated the classis templates and information. We shall submit it to the classis for policy approval (Consent Agenda). We will have the materials available on the Classis website.

3. Church staffing -gathering position descriptions (Nick, Sandra and Larry). **Action>** We are still working to gather more position descriptions from churches.
4. Review of Consistorial Reports. Nick deVries and Larry get kudos for creating a document that the committee can use. We will discuss this document more at our May meeting.
5. Classis training event for consistories. CSS is exploring hosting a summer evening event in August. There would be a workshop for clerks, for deacons, for elders.
6. Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Ben Aguilera and Christ Memorial Consistory.
  - It was agreed that Ben's active ministry with Christ Memorial would end on April 30. His relationship with the church will conclude at the end of July.
  - Christ Memorial endorses Ben to his next desired role as a church planter. Ben is actively pursuing the fulfillment of this calling.
  - CSS approved dissolving the pastoral relationship upon which both parties agreed.
7. Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Dr. Brian Keepers and the Fellowship Church consistory.
  - Brian announced he accepted the call to the Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City IA. His last Sunday at Fellowship is June 4.
  - CSS has been active and present to conclude this relationship well. Brian's membership will be transferred to the East Sioux Classis this summer.

#### Minister Support & Supervision Committee

1. We met with Rev. Dr. Alvin Padilla who is requesting membership in Holland Classis. Alvin is serving as faculty dean at Western Seminary. Wife's name is Kathy. She will be moving here this summer and also one of his sons. He is transferring from the Presbytery of New England of the PCUSA.
  - Presbytery of New England has approved the transfer. We receive Alvin by a simple transfer of membership. His status is specialized minister-education
  - **Action>** We approved receiving Alvin into our classis. He will sign the Declaration on May 23.
2. We met with Rev. Agshin Jafarov who is requesting a transfer to Holland Classis from SWMichigan Classis RCA. Agshin serves under the auspices of the RCA Mission Service as a refugee settlement advisor in West Michigan. Most of his work is in the Holland area and Agshin intends to relocate his residence to the Holland area. His status is specialized minister-denomination staff.

**Action>** Approved receiving Agshin into our classis. Send Orientation sheet. He will sign on May 23.
3. We met with Rev. Dan Unekis who is requesting a transfer to Holland Classis from Zeeland Classis RCA. Dan lives in Holland and is employed at Community Action House in Holland. His status in our Classis is specialized minister.
  - **Action>** The clerk will request a transfer certificate from Zeeland Classis.
  - **Action>** We will recognize him as a specialized minister. He will sign Declaration on May 23.
4. Request to be declared Retired. Ron Bechtel requests to be declared as Retired, so he may access to his retirement funds. He is the Director of the 70x7 Ministry in Holland and will continue to do so. Therefore, he would request to be considered "Actively-serving" within our classis.

**Action>** Approved the request to be declared retired, and for an "active-serving status in the Classis. We will place this item on the Consent Agenda to record it in the Classis record.

5. Ordination Applications.
  - Marcy Rudins. She has received a contract with the Ft. Plains NY Reformed Church. She requests to be ordained in the Ft. Plains Church. **Action**> We endorse the Application and communicate endorsement to Montgomery Classis and let that classis act to ordain.
  - Robert Sackett. An Application received to ordain Rob. He has a contract with the counseling firm, "Studio for Change" in Chicago to serve as a pastoral counselor. Action> Approved Ordination and service date of May 21. Approved transferring Rob's membership to the City Classis after ordination.
6. Mentoring and Networks in our Classis.
  - We continue to work at this project. We see the possibility of an Associate Pastors' group. Perhaps, a hospice chaplains' group and an "other" chaplains' group.
7. April 27 Classis Connects event. We are glad to host this event with CSS.
8. Prayer Concerns shared:
  - Brian Keepers and Fellowship in this new transition.
  - Mary Wisner is undergoing cancer treatment for reoccurrence.
  - Marlin Vanderwilt who is experiencing a difficult recovery from surgery.
  - David's mother-in-law died.
  - Don Bruggink's wife Erma died May 4.
9. We adjourned with praise and humility for the opportunities' that have come to us, and offered prayers for the needs of others.

Overtures & Judicial Business Committee. No report.

Stewardship & Finance Committee. No report.

Student Support & Supervision Committee

1. Held a luncheon for candidates on April 12 at Western Seminary. 38 people were present including candidates and committee members. This event helps us prepare students for the exam process and the ordination process.
2. Discussion > exam plans.
  - a) Every candidate is invited to select exams he or she would like to take. A candidate may later withdraw from the exam if the candidate chooses to do so. The classis office sends information about how our exams compare to seminary courses and how the exams fulfil the BCO requirements.
  - b) Examiners are recruited by committee chair.
  - c) The classis office tries to collect exams that have been used in prior years so we have a resource on file.
  - d) We will encourage examiners to communicate with students by the end of April about their exam.
3. Interview with Qiaoqiao Chen. Qiaoqiao submitted an Application to come under care. She is working with Hope Church leaders to receive the Recommendation. We agreed that she would be allowed to participate in our Classis exam process this year, and taken under care.
4. We are permitting Cassie Nelson-Rogalski and Matthew Nelson-Rogalski to participate in our exams though they are not formally under our care yet.

End of Committee Reports