

CLASSIS OF HOLLAND,
Reformed Church in America
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
Stated Session at Fellowship Reformed Church

Present:

Ministers & Commissioned Pastors: A Anderson, J Beagley-Koolhaas, R Bechtel, D Blauw, C Bouma-Prediger, L Braunius, Jo Brownson, P Bush, D Carter, D Claus, R DeYoung, T DeYoung, R Dieleman, K Eriks, K Fry, M Hodgins, A Jafarov, K Jongerius, B Keepers, K Kleinheksel, S Knibbe, D Koopmans, J Lemmenes, JA Lopez, J Lopez-Koolhaas, B Luidens, K Meyer, G Miguel Cipriano, J Munroe, J Nelson, A Padilla, P Quinn, J Russell, J Ryden, N Schipper, L Schuyler, V Sterk, D Unekis, C VanKempen, L VanKempen, P VanKempen, C Veldheer DeYoung, R VanVoorst, T West, and M Wisner .

Elder Delegates: **Beechwood-** N Donkersloot, M Weiland; **Calvary-** CH Falstad; **Central Park-** G McKinley; **Christ Memorial-** S Tapley; **Fellowship-** C Kulier, L Milanowski, K Arthurs; **First-** none; **Hope-** DD Piers, J Parr; **Intersection/Grace-** none; **LifeTree-**none; **Maple Ave Ministries-** A Theule-VanDam; **Maplewood-** none; **New Community/Fourth-** L Dykema; **Pillar-**K Beukema; **Rose Park-** none; **Third-**J Magee; and **Trinity-**none.

Licensed Candidates:

Candidates: A Arthurs, J Boersma, H Brumels, Q Chen, T DeCamp, S Duensing, R Estell, R Hoekstra, R Housman, M Lamson, N Longfield, M Mares, J Myers, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Matt Nelson-Rogalski, E Nichols, M Nkansah, D Nykamp, A Peecher, C Pena, M Rudins, M Tubergen, and M Warfield.

Absent with Notice: A Avery, L Bona, J Daniels, T Daubenspeck, Ke Davelaar, J Japinga, Y Jeon, Y Kim, C Ledbetter-Guckian, G Tanis, A VanDerVeen, D Vagle, J VanDyke, T VanEk, G Wiersma, and M Wilson.

Afternoon Session

The meeting was called to order at 12:25pm by Megan Hodgins, chair of Student Support & Supervision committee, who offered prayer. Then the group went to their assigned exam locations.

12:30-1:30p Bible Knowledge; Call to Ministry; Sermon Prep/Preaching;
Worship/Sacraments.

1:30-2:30p Bible Knowledge; Sermon Prep/Preaching; Worship/Sacraments; RCA Missions.

2:30-3:30p Bible Knowledge; Call to Ministry; Sermon Prep/Preaching;
Worship/Sacraments; RCA Missions; Doctrinal Standards.

3:30-4:30p Call to Ministry; Worship/Sacraments; RCA Missions; Doctrinal Standards.

Evening Session

1. **Call to Order and opening business.** President Norm Donkersloot called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and offered prayer.
 - a. Norm welcomed all in attendance and explained the evening format.
 - b. **M/S** to Approve Agenda for the evening. **APPROVED**
 - c. Approve Consent Agenda. Recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **APPROVED**
 1. Executive Committee: Approve the March 28 Stated Session Minutes as presented.
 2. Executive Committee: Approve the Special Session Minutes for March 26a, March 26b, May 7, and May 21.
 3. Minister Support & Supervision Committee: Declare Ron Bechtel Retired. Recognize Ron as an Active Serving, but Retired member of the Classis.
 4. Church Support & Supervision Committee: Approve the minister/church contract formation packet as a classis policy.

- d. Receive new minister members. The Minister Support & Supervision Committee approved receiving into Classis membership the Rev. Dr. Alvin Padilla from the Presbytery of New England (PCUSA), the Rev. Daniel Unekis from the Zeeland Classis, and the Rev. Agshin Jafarov from the Southwest MI Classis. These ministers read and signed the Declaration for Ministers. Larry Schuyler offered prayer.
2. **Worship** – led by Fellowship Church
The worship team at Fellowship led the worship praise. Pastor Brian Keepers recited Ephesians 4: 1-16 and asked that we listen to each other.
3. **Senior Final Exam Topics: Sacraments and Theology**
Three exam groups will be formed and held simultaneously. There is one exam whose content will focus on Theology and Sacraments. Classis members and delegates will choose which group they would like to attend.
4. **Classis Executive Session.** President Donkersloot declared the Classis was in executive session in order to deliberate on all the Exams of the day. Megan Hodgkin presented the recommendations from the examiners.
- a. **Recommendation:** Sustain the exams for each candidate as advised by the examiner. Those candidates who received the grade of “passed with concern” or “incomplete” are referred to the attention of the SSS Committee. (* denotes “with commendation”) **APPROVED**

Afternoon Oral Exams

Bible Knowledge (Kate Meyer, examiner): Alex Arthurs, Tim DeCamp, Qiaoqiao Chen, Nathan Longfield, Maxwell Nkansah*, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski*, Matt Nelson-Rogalski, Dara Nykamp, Charly Pena.

Call to Ministry (Nate Schipper, examiner): Alex Arthurs*, Hunter Brumels, Tim DeCamp*, Qiaoqiao Chen, Rob Housman, Nathan Longfield, Maxwell Nkansah, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Matt Nelson-Rogalski, Dara Nykamp, Charly Pena.

Sermon Prep/Preaching (Kent Fry, examiner): Alex Arthurs*, Joel Boersma*, Tim DeCamp, Nathan Longfield*, Maxwell Nkansah, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski*, Matt Nelson-Rogalski*, Eric Nichols*, Dara Nykamp*, Andrew Peecher*, Charly Pena.

RCA Missions (Jeanette Beagley-Koolhaas, examiner): Stacey Duensing, Ruth Estell*, Ross Hoekstra, Mike Lamson, Mark Mares, Julie Myers, Eric Nichols, Marcy Rudins, Mike Tubergen, Matt Warfield.

Worship/Sacraments (Kama Jongerius, examiner): Alex Arthurs, Hunter Brumels, Mike Lamson, Nathan Longfield, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Matt Nelson-Rogalski, Dara Nykamp*, Andrew Peecher, Charly Pena.

Doctrinal Standards (Dan Claus, examiner): Stacey Duensing, Mike Lamson, Mark Mares*, Julie Myers, Marcy Rudins, Mike Tubergen, Matt Warfield.

Written Exams

RCA Polity (Larry Schuyler, examiner): Stacey Duensing, Mike Lamson, Mark Mares, Julie Myers, Andrew Peecher*, Marcy Rudins, Mike Tubergen, Matt Warfield.

Discipleship & Teaching Ministry (Ross Dieleman, examiner): Emily Holehan*, Rob Housman, Maxwell Nkansah, Dara Nykamp*, Andrew Peecher*, Charly Pena, Matt Nelson-Rogalski.

Church History (Ron Bechtel, examiner): Alex Arthurs, Qiaoqiao Chen, Tim DeCamp, Nathan Longfield*, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Matthew Nelson-Rogalski, Dara Nykamp, Charly Pena.

Evening Oral Exams

Examiners were Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Brian Keepers, and Jill Russell.

M/S/C to sustain the final exam for these senior candidates: Stacey Duensing*, Mike Lamson, Mark Mares, Julie Myers, Marcy Rudins, Mike Tubergen, Matt Warfield*.
(* denotes “with commendation”). **APPROVED**

- b. **Recommendation:** To approve granting the “Provisional License to Preach” to candidates who participated in exams this year and to give authority to the Student Support & Supervision Committee to determine which candidates who did not participate this year would be granted the “provisional license to preach” certificate. **APPROVED**

Names to whom the certificate is granted: Alex Arthurs, Joel Boersma, Hunter Brumels, Qiaoqiao Chen, Tim DeCamp, Ruth Estell, Ross Hoekstra, Emily Holehan, Rob Housman, Nathan Longfield, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Matthew Nelson-Rogalski, Eric Nichols, Maxwell Nkansah, Dara Nykamp, Andrew Peecher, Charly Pena. Those who didn't participate in exams this year: Israel Alvarado, Rodrigo Cano, Enrique Cuevas, Caleb Nykamp, Matt Mulder, Sergio Reyes.

- c. **Recommendation: Grant Certificates for Licensure to candidates who completed our exam process and have presented a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry.**

APPROVED

Certificates of Licensure awarded to: Stacey Duensing, Mark Mares, Julie Myers, Marcy Rudins, Mike Tubergen, Matt Warfield.

Also, Grant the Certificate of Licensure with "pending" status to those candidates who have completed our exam process and will receive a Certificate of Fitness for Ministry at a future date.

APPROVED

Pending Status set for: Mike Lamson. He is a MFCA candidate and will receive the CFM in June.

President Donkersloot declared the Executive Session has ended.

5. **Classis Regular Session** **Recognition of the Licensed Candidates**

All candidates were welcomed back in the room. The Classis expressed its appreciation for work accomplished by our candidates and their successful achievement in our exam process.

- a. Stacey Duensing, Mark Mares, Julie Myers, Marcy Rudins, Mike Tubergen, and Matt Warfield read & sign the Declaration for Licensed Candidates.
- b. Prayer for our all of our candidates. Classis members were invited to gather around the candidates of their choice and pray a blessing over these newly licensed candidates. Larry Schuyler closed the prayer time.

6. **Other Business**

- a. President's Report
- b. Committee Reports: Written reports were sufficient.
- c. Announcements:
 - i. Kent Fry announced Third Church begins to celebrate its 150th anniversary on September 9.

7. **Adjourn with prayer.**

- a. Classis Prayer Coordinator Jonathan Brownson led the body in a prayer exercise. He asked that pictures would be taken of members praying in groups of 2 or 3 and post to the hashtag #wheretwoorthree. Groups prayed for the RCA and General Synod gathering in June. People were asked to especially seek out someone they may not necessarily agree with in church politics and agree in prayer.
- b. M/S/C to adjourn the session.

Next Stated Session is Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Submitted by Larry Schuyler, Clerk