

Summary of the Meeting

1. CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY
 - A. Reading/Signing Declaration for Ministers by Rev. Amy Klanderman.
 - B. Synod Minister John Messer addressed the Classis. John spoke about the work and ministry of the Synod highlighting the LuminexUSA website, the GLR Prayer Initiative, and the Commissioned Pastor preparation process.
2. WORSHIP; Pastor Denise read Luke 5:17-20 and spoke about the friends bringing the paralytic to Jesus. Pastor Denise said, "Together works, but it takes work. The ingredients for together are love, work and faith in Jesus."
3. DISCUSSION about the Leadership Needs of the Classis as we anticipate the future.
Action> President Norm invited the classis to break into small clusters to discuss the formation of classis as we seek new classis staff. Questions to which responses were sought were: 1) Much of our work is defined by the objective of each classis committee and is supported by our Classis staff. Does the breadth of our committee work match the vision we have for the classis? 2) Does your church desire more collaboration or does it want to operate independently to the extent the denomination allows? 3) What could your church do or do better if it had a partner and how could the classis encourage and support this? 4) What gets in the way of our collaboration?
4. NOMINATIONS
 - A. **Election** of President: Vice President Kate Meyer is the 2018 President-elect.
 - B. **Election** of the Vice President: Postponed due to lack of candidates.
 - C. **Delegates** to the Synods.
 - 1) 2018 General Synod [One-year term] June 7-12, 2018 Calvin College Grand Rapids MI
Ministers: David Lantz; Gretchen Tanis; Dewey Thompson; Nick Knebl.
First Alternates are: Jon Brownson, Lindsay Bona, Leigh VanKempen, and Jay Lindell.
Churches: One Elder from: Maplewood; Beechwood; Rose Park; and Christ Memorial.
 - 2) 2018 Great Lakes Synod Assembly [Two-year term] May 7, 2018 @ Remembrance Church
Ministers: Celaine Bouma-Prediger, Ken Eriks (2nd year); Dan Gillett, David Lantz (1st yr of 2)
Churches: One Elder from: Hope (2nd yr); Third, New Commy/4th, and Trinity (1st yr of 2)
5. EXECUTIVE
Recommendation: We recommend that the Classis approve the proposed Classis budget for 2018. It provides for no increase in the Classis-portion of the assessment. **APPROVED**
6. CHURCH MULTIPLICATION TEAM (See the Committee's Report)
CMT presents highlights of our new church start congregations.
7. MINISTER SUPPORT & SUPERVISION (See the Committee's Report)
 - A. The formation of a pastor's network for associate pastors is forthcoming. Gathering time will happen Thursday October 5 3pm at the Marriott Bistro.
 - B. MSS Chair David Blauw reported on Vern Sterk who has been seriously injured in a bike accident, suffering spinal cord injuries, and is in Spectrum Hospital. He may be transferred to MaryFreeBed in the coming days. David offered prayer for Vern and his family to sustain them through these difficult days.
8. STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE
The 2018 Minister Minimum Compensation Guidelines were approved.

9. Classis Coordinator.
 - A. Classis email communications will now come from **hollandclassisrca@gmail.com**.
 - B. Classis will arrange for discussions to be held this fall (likely November) regarding General Synod's "R-17-56" which explores the issue of the future of the RCA.
 - C. Reformation 500 Commemoration events are occurring in October. Go to www.refoholland.org for detailed information.
 - D. We need more non-ministers to participate in the classis committees.
10. Coordinator for Multi-Cultural Ministries.
 - A. It is a scary time for immigrants. They are unsure of their future due to the current political climate.
 - B. Aaron VanDerVeen spoke about the value of the Latino Student Fund which provides grants for books and family emergencies for Latino Seminarians. Contributions may be sent to the Classis designated for the Latino Fund.
11. Classis Prayer Coordinators Jonathan Brownson and Emmett Brown
 - They are beginning a project of distributing shared topics for prayer throughout the classis.
 - They have visited each classis church site, prayed for church, and talked with pastors.
12. Great Lakes Synod Report: Synod President Judy Nelson reported on the work of the synod and that Glenda McKinley is serving as the Holland Classis representative/liaison to Synod Executive Committee.
13. WORDS OF HOPE Report from Kent Fry.

Action> On October 27, a breakfast will be held at the Alpen Rose for pastors in order to introduce the new director Jonathan VanOpgenorth and discuss the work of Words of Hope.
14. CELEBRATING OUR SHARED MINISTRY (Announcements/ Sharing church news)
 - GSC Board Chair Dan Gillett announced that the position description for the RCA General Secretary has been posted and the resume applications may be submitted for the position.
15. Next Stated Session: Tuesday, January 23, 2018; 6:30 pm.

We will gather at LifeTree Community Church (M-45, between 120th & 96th Aves)

Consent Agenda.

A single motion approves all the recommendations listed below. Anyone can request that a recommendation be removed from this list and handled under the committee report.

1. Nominations Report:
Recommendation: Approve the slate and rotation lists as presented for delegates and alternates to attend the RCA General Synod and the Great Lakes Synod. An approved rotation list determines order of alternates.
2. Nominations Report:
Recommendation: Approve the committee membership nominations/ appointments as presented.
3. Executive Committee Report:
Recommendation: Approve the Classis session minutes for May 23 Stated Session, and May 7 and May 21 Special Sessions.
4. Minister Support & Supervision Report:
Recommendation: Declare Rev. Dawn Boelkins retired.
5. Stewardship & Finance Report:
Recommendation: Adopt the guidelines as presented from the Great Lakes Synod as the Holland Classis Minister Compensation Guidelines for 2018.