

# Summary of Action at the Holland Classis March 20 Session

President Kate Meyer presiding

**Note:** This document is not the official minutes of the stated session.

1. **Reception of New Member.** The Rev. Tim Alicki read and signed the Declaration for Ministers. Tim is received by transfer from the Northern Michigan Classis RCA.
2. **Worship,** led by LifeQuest Church. LifeQuest member Bill Palmbo led the singing. Pastor Toby read John 12 and spoke about the costly oil. The aroma of aromatic oil filled the room as each person was anointed. We are sent forth as bearers of the aroma of Christ. 2 Cor. 2:14-15.
3. Approved the Minutes of January 23, 2018. The reason given for removal from the consent agenda is the awareness of a lack of quorum at the January session (as well as this session). The body recognized this issue but also recognized that not approving the minutes doesn't solve the issue.
4. **Church Multiplication Team.** The CMT<sup>2</sup> idea was presented. This idea is the formation of a unified team composed of representatives from the Holland classes and Zeeland classes of both the RCA and CRC. A firm proposal will be presented at the May session. The classis asked that the proposal make clear statements about how oversight over new church starts will be addressed.
5. **Church Support & Supervision.**
  - Summary of the Annual Reports from Churches. The membership statistics are in the agenda packet. CSS is sending the compilation of the CRF essay questions to all classis members, so everyone can see the quality ministry that is occurring in our midst and share the prayer concerns. The Classis body agreed by consensus to receive this material through email. It is posted on the website.
  - The results of the Constitutional Inquiry are also published in the packet.
  - The Consistory Workshop was well received. The vast majority of survey respondents asked that such a workshop be held annually. Ideas for workshops are and will be received anytime.
6. **Overtures & Judicial Business.** The following changes to the Classis Bylaws were approved.

**Article I. Membership**

  - A. Membership in the Classis includes all enrolled ministers, commissioned pastors, and the elder delegates who represent all the churches within the Classis bounds. Voting rights are limited to elder delegates, ~~and~~ those enrolled ministers who are actively serving as ministers either under the jurisdiction of or with the approval of the Classis, and commissioned pastors.
  - B. Attendance at Stated and Special Sessions.
    1. Ministers, commissioned pastors and elder delegates to the Classis are expected to attend all stated and special sessions of the Classis. A notice of absence from a member or delegate shall be treated as a motion to be excused from the quorum count, unless the notice indicates otherwise.
    2. A minister ~~Ministers~~ who ~~has~~ ~~have~~ not received credit for attending a minimum of two stated sessions of the Classis in a year shall not advance for one year on the rotation list toward serving as a delegate to a General Synod or Great Lakes Synod. ~~be placed at the end of the list (as if they have just attended a General or Great Lakes Synod meeting) in the rotational system.~~ The Nominations Committee shall serve as the ruling body if a minister desires to apply for an exception to this rule due to extenuating circumstances.
    3. Delegates from a church which is not current in the payment of its assessments (more than 60 days past due) shall not be eligible to vote at the Classis sessions. The Executive Committee may grant a waiver of this requirement at its meeting prior to a stated session of the Classis.
  - C. Corresponding delegates are Associates in Ministry, licensed candidates, fraternal delegates, chairs of the Classis committees, denominational staff, regional synod staff and officers of the Classis who do not otherwise have voting rights. Corresponding delegates shall have the privilege of the floor.
7. **The Past-President's Report** was received in written form because Norm was delayed with airline flight issues. Norm's Report is posted on the Classis website.

8. **President's Report.** Kate is intending to propose that Holland Classis have three states session each year and the March session become a special session as needed.  
Also, she needs help with transportation for the chaplains' conference in June, especially getting people to and from the airport. Please contact her to volunteer
9. **Classis Coordinator's Report**
- Hiawatha Property (former Haven Shores Church). The Executive Committee is acting to sell the property to the current renter, the Harbor Lights Baptist Church via a land contract. The target date for the sale is the end of June. The price will be determined by independent appraisal. The land contract would be for seven years. **Motion/S/C** that the Classis Executive Committee is authorized to proceed with the sale of the Hiawatha property under the terms reported.
  - Delegates to the Synods. General Synod: Notice of the need for alternate elder delegates has been sent forth, as per our classis policy. Names will only be received that have the endorsement of the local church of membership. Great Lakes Synod: Two churches declined. As replacement delegates are sought, each church in line will be asked. The church will not forfeit its place in line if it is unable to provide a named delegate.
  - Vice President Candidate. Larry reports that a major issue with securing candidates is the fear of over-demand for attendance at special sessions. **Motion/S/C** that the Executive Committee is authorized to permit whomever they approve from this Classis to preside at an ordination or installation service.
  - Name Tags. A new display format has been introduced.
10. **Election of a Vice President.** Nominations were open. The Executive Committee is pondering if we now need a different process to host elections to this office.
11. **Report of the Classis Leadership Transition Team.** Verbal Report by David Blauw.
- The job description presented in January is being discussed and a review of our history with this position has been done.
  - The small transition team met and believe it is the role of the Executive Committee to shape the job description for the Classis Coordinator, since that group provides a fuller representation of the Classis. Therefore, this group made these decisions:
    - This team will not attempt to move forward until a) A fuller representation of the Executive Committee sets direction for the role of Classis Coordinator, and b) A financial comparison of resources has been completed. This step includes seeing what other classes spend for leadership positions.
    - This team is not bringing a rationale for its past proposal to this session but expects the Executive Committee to bring a clear proposal to the May session.
12. **Next Stated Session: Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at Pillar Church.**  
12:30pm-5pm Student Examinations; 6:30 PM Worship and Evening Session