

# Committee Reports

## Executive Committee

1. Call to Order (Kate) Prayer/Devotions: Called by Kate with prayer. Devotions: Ephesian 6:10-20. Be strong in the Lord. Put on the armor of the Lord. Kate uses this passage in therapy to encourage people to see their salvation as a strength and resource for healthy living --and for the church to stay united as one in Christ against the wiles of life.
2. Pastor Jonathan Brownson and Elder Leah Dykstra from New Community 4<sup>th</sup> Church were present to discuss their report. A written document was shared.
  - a. They thanked the Classis which has invested \$10k for 18 years and for Classis assistance with connecting church partners. They expressed gratitude for Marylynn's support over these years as well.
  - b. Their news: Church leaders are focusing on joining with the movement of the formation of the Boulevard Church. They asked the Executive Committee to endorse their idea to meld NC4 into the Boulevard Church start. The committee thanked the church leaders for sharing their vision and received their idea for information. Since the Classis hasn't yet taken steps to form the new church start called Boulevard, the classis isn't prepared to endorse any plans.
3. Officer Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report (Marylynn) Written report received for information.
    - i. All assessments have been received. Payments for up-to-date.
  - b. Coordinator/Stated Clerk (Larry)
    - Executive committee minutes: February 26. M/S/C approve minutes. APPROVED
    - Approval of Stated Session: March 20. M/S/C approve Minutes. APPROVED (Consent Agenda item)
    - Delegate preparation meetings for General Synod will happen in May. Larry's schedule has precluded gathering our regional synod delegates. We do not have a full delegation of elders to participate at the Great Lakes Synod. We are likely to be two elders short.
    - Sale of the Hiawatha property.
      - i. The completed Appraisal registered the value at \$369,000.
      - ii. We wondered about dividing the property in order to make an affordable sale. However, we concluded we could hurt ourselves if we pursued this option.
      - iii. We did agree is that we are willing to allow a zero interest land contract for seven years.
      - iv. Terry DeYoung volunteered to participate on the Classis negotiating team with Larry. They will meet with the church board to discuss an agreement.
    - The Second Reformed Church in Zeeland has approached Holland Classis and the Zeeland Classis about transferring from Zeeland Classis to Holland Classis. The consistory has now asked that formal talks begin with the goal and intention of completing the transfer. This matter is being addressed by our Church S&S Committee. Zeeland Classis leadership affirms this action.

- c. President's Report (Kate) See transition team.
4. Transition Team Report & Discussion.  
Kate proposed the Executive Committee approve a full-time Coordinator position be brought to the Classis in May.  
Discussion: The most significant difference in cost between the two options is cost of insurance.  
Discussion: It seemed the Classis expects a full-time position or justification for less-than-full.  
Action> The previous job description with adaption would be used as the basis for the job description. The proposal is to be included in the Agenda packet so that the classis has an opportunity to review it before a vote on May 22.  
**Recommendation:** That the Job Description for a Full-time employed Coordinator be approved.
5. May Stated Session: Agenda items were discussed. Larry is directed to form the agenda.

#### **Church Support & Supervision Committee**

1. We approved providing the Holland Deacons Conference with the contact info for the workshop attendees. Action > We approved sharing names in order to work collaboratively.
2. Church updates
  - a. Fellowship: Transition, update. Action> Report from Supervisor Jon Brown reports: At this point they have five or six candidates and are moving to two finalists. Those finalists will interact with the search team, staff and council before they make a recommendation to the council and invite a candidate to meet the congregation. They are very aware of the need for the classis to interview a candidate when they have a finalist. And so are planning that as part of their weekend with a finalist. Otherwise the church remains healthy, finances are good, staff is doing well, they have a phenomenal group of lay leaders as well. Been a gift to serve with them. Thanks for the opportunity.
  - b. Hiawatha property: Details of potential sale were discussed.
  - c. We are aware that Pillar Church is intending to begin construction on a building.  
We will discuss the project with church leaders, and whether classis involvement is needed.
  - d. Maple Avenue working on a capital campaign. We will discuss this project with church leaders, and whether classis involvement is needed.

#### **Minister Support & Supervision Committee**

1. Change in Minister Status.
  - a. Transfer of Smirna Postmus. She is living in CA. Action> At her request, a transfer notice has been sent to the Classis of the Americas. We are waiting for their statement that that Classis has officially received her.
  - b. Status of Status of Stephanie Croom. Background> We approved her transfer to the Presbytery of Charlotte (NC). That loop was never closed. Stephanie decided she would like to remain a minister in the RCA, so her file has been reactivated. Action> There is little action needed. Larry is directed to express welcome of the classis to her. Stephanie's status continues as Minister-without-charge.
  - c. Transfer of Mike Lamson to Great Lakes City Classis. Action> M/S/C to transfer to Great Lakes City Classis. Approved.
2. Future members entering Classis Update.

Leslie Bolt from Christ Memorial. She is enrolled in our exams. We have a transfer notice from the International Ministers' Fellowship. Action> She will be received as a minister in our classis following exams on May 22. We will receive her as a transferred minister. **M/S/C** to approve receiving Leslie into Holland Classis, when her exams are sustained.

3. Retirement Action.  
Rev. Dr. Robert Van Voorst has set the date of June 30, 2018 for his retirement. Action> **M/S** to approve his retirement request and to **recommend** the Classis declare him retired. [Consent Agenda item]
4. Minister Excellence Fund Grant for Assistance with Pastor's debt. Keeping this on our agenda but have nothing to report. Action> The purpose of this grant was reviewed.
5. Ordination Applications.
  - a. Ross Hoekstra has a Promise of Call to the First Reformed Church in Maurice IA. Ordination date is set for June 3, 3pm, at First Reformed. Action> M/S/C to approve ordination request, pending successful completion of classis exams.
  - b. Eric Nichols has accepted the invitation from Pine Rest Services to participate in their chaplain residency. Classis is holding the date of June 17, 3pm, at Maple Avenue for his ordination service. Action> M/S/ C to approve the ordination request, pending successful completion of Classis exams.
6. Mentoring and Networks in our Classis. Associate pastor's network met this month. Action> The first meeting was scheduled to occur this month.
7. The question was raised about the committee receiving some form of report from our Specialized Ministers. We will figure out our next steps on this project. Action> Linda and Larry will meet to make a proposal for the committee to consider. The date/time of their meeting will be announced so others can join them. Beth volunteered to create something with Google forms that could be useful.
8. We can review our Classis Pictorial directory and address keeping it up-to-date. Action> We will work at this more this summer. We may take pictures of new ministers when we meet with them.

#### **Student Support & Supervision Committee**

1. Lunch with Candidates occurred on April 19. Presentation about the exam process and process for Ordination by Phil and Larry. Discussion on questions from the floor were addressed.
2. Student Support & Supervision Committee discussion of exams.
  - i. Recruiting/Confirming Examiners. Phil completed securing examiners.
  - ii. Exam Proctor list. Sally is completing the Proctor assignments. Larry will send the Proctor Responsibility List to proctors, and exam instructions to examiners.
  - iii. Permission to include extra candidates in our exams: Permission granted.
    - a. Laurel Pals – currently in Oman.
    - b. Kyle Lake – WTS graduate. Employed at Mars Hill Church. Action> We must require Kyle to become a member at one of our Classis churches.
  - iv. Certificate of Fitness for Ministry and Dara Nykamp.  
Action> There isn't a process in WTS system for securing a CFM for a former student. Larry is working with seminary officers to secure the CFM in a timely manner.

- v. Competent for Ministry exam for Dara Nykamp. Action> We need to complete this exam in order for Dara to complete her exam requirements. We will see if she can join us at our next meeting.
- vi. Israel Alvarado – He reported he is pursuing ordination in CRC. Action> We approved dismissing him from our care.
- vii. Ryan Hall – He called to report he is pursuing ordination in the CRC. Action> Approved dismissing him from our care.
- viii. Arrangements with Pillar Church. Action> All set but Larry will touch in with them again prior to the exam date.

### **Church Multiplication Team**

CMT<sup>2</sup> is the name given the group formed by the Holland Classis RCA, the Classis Holland CRC, the Zeeland Classis RCA, and the Classis Zeeland CRC. The Church Multiplication team for each classis is melding into one unit in order to work together to strategize, to raise up church planters, to resource church starts and launch new church ministries. The proposed agreement is attached. This plan will be discussed at our May session.

**Recommendation:** That the Classis approve CMT to enter into this mutual agreement under the terms expressed in the proposal.

End of Report