

**CLASSIS OF HOLLAND,**  
Reformed Church in America  
**Tuesday, May 22, 2018**  
Stated Session at Pillar Church in Holland MI

Present:

**Ministers & Commissioned Pastors:** B Aguilera, J Beagley-Koolhaas, R Bechtel, D Blauw, B Bolt, C Bouma-Prediger, L Braunius, J Brown, P Bush, S Cammenga, J Daniels, C DeGraaf, K Derrick, T DeYoung, R Dieleman, D Doeden, L Ford, K Fry, D Gillett, T Gruppen, R Hawley-Lowry, K Kleinheksel, S Knibbe, D Koopmans, J Lemmenes, K Lepley, JA Lopez, J Lopez-Koolhaas, B Luidens, N McLaren, K Meyer, J Nelson, T Nelson, J Nienhuis, P Quinn, I Rhodes, J Russell, J Ryden, N Schipper, L Schuyler, K Small, L Small, A VanDerVeen, L VanKempen, P VanKempen, C Veldheer DeYoung, G Wiersma and D Yurk.

**Elder Delegates:** **Beechwood-** None; **Calvary-** CH Falstad; **Central Park-** None; **Christ Memorial-** S Tapley, S Doeblor; **Fellowship-** C Kulier; **First-** none; **Hope-** F VanDoornik, R Smith; **Intersection/Grace-** none; **LifeTree-** none; **Maple Ave Ministries-** A Theule-VanDam, Beauford Johnson; **Maplewood-** none; **New Community/Fourth-** None; **Pillar-**R Laarman; **Rose Park-** none; **Third-**J Magee; and **Trinity-**D Kruihof.

**Licensed Candidates:**

**Candidates:** A Arthurs, E Bodkins, J Boersma, E Brown, H Brumels, Q Chen, R Cooper, T DeCamp, R Estell, R Hoekstra, E Holehan, R Housman, K Lake, N Longfield, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Matt Nelson-Rogalski, E Nichols, M Nkansah, C Nykamp, D Nykamp, and C Pena. Absent: A Peecher, A Mares, S Reyes, M Mulder.

**Absent with Notice:** A Avery, T Billings, L Bona, J Brandsen, D Brown, T Brown, Jo Brownson, R Brownson, T Daubenspeck, L Duin, J Elzinga, K Eriks, K Guthrie, J Japinga, L Japinga, A Jafarov, K Jongerius, Y Jeon, Y Kim, C Ledbetter-Guckian, G McKinley, J Meyer, E Peterson, I Ochoa, L Ruiz, G Tanis, D Thompson, D Unekis, C VanKempen, A VanDerVeen, D Vagle, J VanDyke, T VanEk, T Venegas, T West, and M Wilson.

Afternoon Session

The meeting was called to order at 12:25pm by President Kate Meyer. Phillip Quinn, chair of Student Support & Supervision committee, offered prayer. The groups then went to their assigned exam locations.

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

1:30-2:30p Bible Knowledge; Worship/Sacraments; RCA Missions, Doctrinal Standards.

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

3:30-4:30p Sermon Prep/Preaching; RCA Missions; Doctrinal Standards.

Evening Session

1. **Call to Order and opening business.** Classis Coordinator Larry Schuyler called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and offered prayer.
  - a. Larry 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 20 Stated Session Minutes as presented.
    2. Minister Support & Supervision Committee: Declare the Rev Dr. Robert VanVoorst Retired, as of June 30, 2018.
    3. Excused absences: Approve the list of "Absence with Notice" persons as excused from the meeting quorum.
  - d. Introduction of candidates under care. Dara Nykamp and Leslie Bolt and a new minister member.
2. **Worship** – led by Pillar Church  
The worship team at Pillar led the worship praise. Pastor Jonathan Gabhart presented Psalm 24 as a community song to be sung.

### 3. Senior Final Exam Topics: Senior Theology

Three exam groups will be formed and held simultaneously. There is one exam whose content focus addresses Theology and Sacraments. Classis members and delegates will choose which group they would like to attend.

### 4. Classis Executive Session. President Meyer declared the Classis was in executive session in order to deliberate on all Exams. Phillip Quinn 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. When the committee is satisfied with the student’s work, the committee may change the grade of the exam. (Key: \* denotes “pass with commendation.” PC means “pass with concern.” Inc means Incomplete. WD means “Withdrew from the exam.”) **APPROVED**

#### Afternoon Oral Exams

**Bible Knowledge** (Kate Meyer, examiner): Emmett Brown, Caleb Nykamp, Hunter Brumels, Rob Housman\*, Laurel Pals\*, Kyle Lake\*, Emily Bodkins-WD.

**Call to Ministry** (Nate Schipper, examiner): Emily Holehan\*, Laurel Pals\*, Kyle Lake\*, Emmett Brown-Inc, Rebecca Cooper, Emily Bodkins-WD.

**Sermon Prep/Preaching** (Kent Fry, examiner): Rob Housman\*, Kyle Lake\*, Laurel Pals, Emmett Brown\*, QiaoQiao Chen\*.

**RCA Missions** (Lindsey Rhodes, examiner): Emily Holehan, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Tim DeCamp-Inc, Maxwell Nkansah, Dara Nykamp\*, Matt Nelson-Rogalski, Joel Boersma-PC, Charly Pena, Leslie Bolt\*, Kyle Lake-WD.

**Worship/Sacraments** (Noah McLaren, examiner): QiaoQiao Chen\*, Ross Hoekstra, Rob Housman\*, Tim DeCamp, Joel Boersma\*, Maxwell Nkansah, Rebecca Cooper, Emmett Brown-Inc.

**Doctrinal Standards** (Gordon Wiersma, examiner): Charly Pena, Dara Nykamp\*, Ross Hoekstra, Leslie Bolt\*, Emily Holehan\*, Joel Boersma\*, Ruth Estell\*, Maxwell Nkansah, Rebecca Cooper\*.

#### Written Exams

**RCA Polity** (Larry Schuyler, examiner): Charly Pena, Emily Holehan, Ross Hoekstra, Joel Boersma-Inc, Ruth Estell\*, Maxwell Nkansah, Dara Nykamp\*, Eric Nichols, Leslie Bolt, Rebecca Cooper.

**Discipleship & Teaching Ministry** (Ross Dieleman, examiner): Nathan Longfield, Alex Arthurs, QiaoQiao Chen\*, Emily Bodkins, Tim DeCamp, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski, Kyle Lake, Caleb Nykamp, Laurel Pals-TBD, Emmett Brown-WD.

**Church History** (Ron Bechtel, examiner): Maxwell Nkansah-Inc, Rob Housman, Leslie Bolt, Rebecca Cooper\*, Kyle Lake\*, Laurel Pals-TBD, Emmett Brown-WD, Emily Bodkins-WD.

#### Evening Oral Exams

Examiners were Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Chris DeGraaf, and Jill Russell.

**M/S/C** to sustain the final exam for these senior candidates: Charly Pena, Ruth Estell, Joel Boersma\*, Ross Hoekstra\*, Maxwell Nkansah\*, Dara Nykamp\*, Eric Nichols, Emily Holehan, Leslie Bolt. (\* 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**

- 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: Charly Pena, Ruth Estell, Ross Hoekstra, Dara Nykamp, Eric Nichols, and Emily Holehan.

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: Joel Boersma and Maxwell Nkansah.

d. **Recommendation:** Receive Leslie Bolt into Holland Classis as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

**APPROVED**

e. **M/S/C** that the Student Support & Supervision Committee encourage Western Seminary to develop and offer a course with addresses RCA Missions, so that students can appropriately fulfill the BCO examination requirement for RCA Missions.

**APPROVED**

President Meyer 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. **Charly Pena, Ruth Estell, Ross Hoekstra, Dara Nykamp, Eric Nichols, and Emily Holehan** read & sign the Declaration for Licensed Candidates.
- b. Prayer for our all of our candidates was offered by Phillip Quinn.
- c. **Leslie Bolt** was welcomed as a minister of Classis by transfer. She read and signed the Declaration for Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Larry Schuyler prayed for her.

## 6. **Other Business**

- a. Executive Committee: Kate Meyer presented the Report. **Recommendation:** To approve the Coordinator Job Description as full-time position presented. **APPROVED**  
The job description with contact information will be posted on the Classis website and other places.
- b. Church Multiplication Team (CMT): Toby Gruppen presented the report. Recommendation: That the Classis approve CMT to enter into the mutual agreement under the terms expressed in the proposal. **APPROVED**
- c. Announcements:
  - i. Kate Meyer announced that volunteers are needed to serve on the Classis Coordinator Search Team. Volunteers can contact Kate.

## 7. **Adjourn with prayer.**

President Meyer declared the session adjourned and offered closing prayer. Adjournment time: 9:25pm

**Next Stated Session is Tuesday, September 25, 2018 @**

Submitted by Larry Schuyler, Clerk