

Minutes of Stated Session

Holland Classis, Reformed Church in America

Meeting on March 26, 2019

at Central Park Reformed Church Holland, Michigan

Present

- Ministers & Commissioned Pastors (46):
 - Ben Aguilera, Jeanette Beagley-Koolhaas, Ron Bechtel, Lindsay Bona, Celaine Bouma-Prediger, Jim Brownson, Jonathan Brownson, Beth Carroll, Dan Carter, Jim Daniels, Terry DeYoung, Ross Dieleman, Isaias D’Oleo-Ochoa, Jeff Elzinga, Kent Fry, Dan Gillett, Daniel Griswold, Toby Gruppen, Ruth Hawley-Lowry, Marvin Hoff, Agshin Jafarov, Don Jansen, Lynn Japinga, Dan Jelsma, Kama Jongerius, Amy Klanderman, Kevin Kleinheksel, David Komline, Jean Lemmenes, Jose Angel Lopez, Kate Meyer, Judy Nelson, Carolyn Raar, Izzy Rhodes, Jill Russell, Andrew Spidahl, Dan Unekis, Deb Yurk, Aaron VanDerVeen, Judy VanDyke, Todd VanEk, Leigh Van Kempen, Paul Van Kempen, David VanOpstall, Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Travis West
- Elder Delegates (13):
 - Beechwood: none, Calvary: C. H. Falstad, Central Park: Jay Hescott, Christ Memorial: Terry Edewaard, Sally Tapley, First: none, Fellowship: Charles Kulier, Hope: Rick Smith, Fred Van-Doornik, Intersection/Grace: Pat Weatherwax, Maple Ave Ministries: Arika Theule-VanDam, Maplewood: Doug Ebels, LifeQuest: none, Life Tree: Dean Brown, Pillar: Mike Tubergen, Third: Jane Dalman, Joyce Magee, Trinity: none
- Licensed Candidates:
 - Sally C. Hovenga
- Candidates for Ministry:
 - Katie Alley, Kyle Boer, Emmett Brown, Renée Jelsma, Rita Loyola, Alyssa Meuhmel, Hannah Nickolay, Eugene Ryan, Trey Tirpak

Excused from Quorum Requested & Approved

- Ministers & Commissioned Pastors (24):
 - Lorene Duin, Jenna Nienhuis, Kara Lepley, Larry Schuyler, Phil Quinn, Steve Wing, Nate Schipper, Wayne Brouwer, Ruth Estell, Thom Daubenspeck, Case Van Kempen, David Blauw, Sandra Cammenga, JP Sundararajan, Sharon Knibbe, Darrell Koopmans, Eric Peterson, Dawn Vagle, Bob VanVoorst, Gordon Wiersma, Eric Peterson, Ken Eriks, Rachel Patmos, Hugo Vasquez

- Elders (1):
 - Clair Van Zeelt

1. Call to Order

- President Kate Meyer opened the stated session with prayer at 6:37 p.m.
- Guests and new members were introduced
- **Motion:** to approve the agenda, as amended — **MSC**
- **Motion:** to approve the Consent Agenda (see below) — **MSC**
- **Motion:** to approve the request of the Rev. Daniel Jelsma to transfer into Holland Classis and to receive him as a member — **MSC**

2. Reception of New Members into Classis

- The following ministers of Word and Sacrament read and signed the declaration for ministers: the Rev. Dr. Daniel Griswold, the Rev. Daniel Jelsma, the Rev. Roberto (Tito) Venegas

3. Worship

- a time of worship was led by members of Central Park Reformed Church. The Rev. Kevin Kleinhessel preached.

4. Reports of the Officers

A. President's Report

President Kate Meyer delivered the annual “State of Religion” report. She highlighted that, and how, we are in a state of challenge and transition. While there are many things worth celebrating, “some of us are steeped in grief.” She urged the people of the classis to participate in our common work and to strive to overcome attitudes that divide us. She concluded her remarks by speaking about the schedule and frequency of our stated sessions.

B. Vice President's Report

Vice President Judy Nelson spoke about the workshop convened by the Council of Synod Executives in Phoenix, AZ, January 21–23. It was connected with the work of the Vision 2020 Team.

C. Coordinator/Clerk's Report

Coordinator Dan Griswold offered additional remarks on the work of the Vision 2020 Team. He thanked the members and delegates for the warm welcome he and Tammi have received since their move to Holland from Rochester, NY. He also thanked them for completing their Consistorial Report Forms. He noted that he needs two more minister delegates and one more elder delegate for the regional synod meeting on May 6. He also has not collected elders' and consistory minutes from a few churches.

- **Motion:** to direct the coordinator to request Great Lakes Synod and General Synod to forgive the assessment based on the membership of Fourth Reformed Church — **MSC**

5. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

- Reporting through the clerk, the treasurer affirms that funds from the Bethel Fund were limited to designated items.

B. Nominations Committee

- Kent Fry spoke about the work of the Words of Hope Board; Kent's term on the board ends in a few months and the classis needs to appoint another board member. Kent is willing to speak with people about his time on the board.

C. Overtures & Judicial Business Committee

- Cindi Veldheer DeYoung presented the report of the OJB Committee, and led the assembly in votes on the proposed amendments to the RCA Constitution adopted by the 2018 General Synod. The committee's advice for each of these proposed amendments was to Approve them.
 - Proposed Amendment 1, Classes Authorized to Vote on Constitutional Amendments Adopted by General Synod: **Approved**
 - Proposed Amendment 2, Regional Synod Formation, Combination, and Disbanding of Classes, and Transfer of Churches from One Classis to Another: **Approved**
 - Proposed Amendment 3, Consistory Responsibility of Costs Borne by Minister when Source of Minister's Insurance is Spouse's Employer-Sponsored Benefit Plan: **Approved**
- The coordinator asked for unanimous consent for delaying the Student Support & Supervision report until more of the new candidates arrive from classis — **NO OBJECTION**

D. Church Support & Supervision Committee

- Jeanette Beagley-Koolhaas, chair, reported on the work of the committee. She gave particular attention to the work of the New Community Fourth Reformed Church Supersession Team, as well as the upcoming April 9 workshop for deacons, elders, ministers, and all in positions of church leadership.
- **Motion:**

To approve the sale of the property at 355 Washington Blvd., Holland, Michigan, and to grant to the Fourth Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan Supersession Team:

- the authority to approve all of the sale terms; and,
- the power to sign all closing documents which may be required to close the said sale.
- Nicholas DeVries and Daniel Griswold are authorized to sign all documents for the sale of the real property at 355 Washington Blvd., Holland, Michigan.

It is hereby acknowledged that the Fourth Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan Supersession Team is acting as the Holland Classis-appointed trustees of the real property of Fourth Reformed Church of Holland, Michigan, which is also known as New Community Fourth Reformed Church. — **MSC**

E. Minister Support & Supervision Committee

- Celaine Bouma-Prediger, chair, reported on behalf of the committee
- **Motion:** To approve the request of Wayne Bowerman to demit from ministry — **MSC**

F. Student Support & Supervision Committee

- Izzy Rhodes, representing the committee, introduced the following individuals, whom the committee recommends that the classis take under care as candidates for ministry:
 - Katherine Alley
 - Kyle Boer
 - Renée Jelsma
 - Rita Loyola
 - Alyssa Meuhmel
 - Hannah Nickolay
 - Wayne Otten (not present)
 - Eugene Ryan
 - Trey Tirpak
- **Motion:** to receive under care of the classis the above named individuals — **MSC**

6. Prayer Time

- Classis Prayer Coordinators Emmett Brown and Jonathan Brownson led the assembly in a time of prayer.

7. Adjournment

- The next stated session will be May 28, 2019 at Hope Church, 77 W 11th Street, with student exams starting at 12:30 pm and the evening session starting at 6:30 pm.
- President Meyer closed the stated session with prayer at 8:31 p.m.

Consent Agenda

From Executive Committee:

- Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the September 25, 2018 stated session and the January 6, 2019 special session.

From the Minister Support & Supervision Committee:

- Recommendation: To approve the requests from Mark Poppen, Ciela Tonge, Tom Boogaart, and Larry Schuyler to be declared Retired.
- Recommendation: To confirm the actions of MSS in changing the status of the following ministers to Without Charge: Leslie Bolt, Eric Nichols, and Dawn Vagle.
- Recommendation: To confirm changes of status approved by MSS for the following ministers: Lindsay Bona, Jeff Meyer, JP Sundararajan, Katy Sundararajan, and David VanOpstall.
- Recommendation: To confirm the transfers approved by MSS for the following ministers: Jim Henveld, Smirna Postmus, and Austin Vondracek.

From Nominations Committee

- Recommendation: To approve the following committee and synodical appointments:
 - Kama Jongerius to MSS
 - Ned Meurer to MSS
 - Jon Brown to MSS
 - Beth Carroll to SSS
 - Ken Beukelman to SSS
 - Roger DeYoung to Nominations
 - Deb Yurk to RSGL Executive Committee (1st full term)