

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 8:30 AM

Hosted by Little Saigon and Ekklesia CRC, Westminster, CA

President: Henry Lengkeek; Vice-President: Brent Wassink; Clerk: Sid Sybenga

102011: 1 Spiritual Orientation & Opening:

Praise: Alison Jones; Testimony: Joel Van Soelen; Prayer: Carl Kromminga.

102011: 1.1 The president, Rev. Henry Lengkeek welcomed everyone. The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Twenty out of 24 Established Churches attended the meeting. Five out of 11 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The following leaders (in chart) were delegated to deliberate at this meeting. The Synodical Deputies, Bruce Persenaire; William Verhoef and Seung Jai Kang were introduced. Several other guests were also introduced, first time delegates signed the form of subscription, after which the president declared Classis constituted.

Established Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen	Bud Devries	
Anaheim Latin American	Mirtha Villafañe		
Arcadia Hope International	Sid Sybenga	Albert Ompi	Marco Arandia
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	Rich Boersma	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Clarence DeVries	
Bellflower, First	Paul Hoekstra	Thomas Byma	
Bellflower, Bethany	Henry Lengkeek	Hank Van den Berg	Lon Wagner
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	Dionisio Aguhob	Mario Dogelio	
Bellflower, Rosewood	Bonny Mulder-Behnia,	Fernando Valencia	
Burbank, Bethany	Soo Min Bang	Hyuksoo Kwon	
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	<i>absent</i>		
Carson, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Covina, The Bridge	<i>absent</i>		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life		Scott Clair	Rachel Stewart
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Tae Kim	Christina Kang	Peter Kang
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	Donald Mulder	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Frank White	
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones	Emma Johnson	Alison Jones
Los Angeles, New Ground Harvest	<i>Absent</i>		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Charles Oh		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	<i>Absent</i>		
Monterey Park, Chinese	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel		Frank De Haan	Matt Sapp
Sun Valley, Sol del Valle	Carlos Aranguiz	Abelardo Gonzalez	
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le	Christian Nang	
Emerging Church	Pastor	Parenting Church	
Artesia City Church	Wallace Williams	Bethany Bellflower	
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	<i>Absent</i>	Bethany, Bellflower	
Bellflower, The Church on "X Street"	<i>Absent</i>	New City, Long Beach	
La Crescenta , God's Dream Center	<i>Absent</i>		
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	<i>Absent</i>	Rosewood, Bellflower	
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	<i>Absent</i>	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp	
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	Fatu Auau	FoL Fountain Valley	
Fountain Valley, Egyptian	Maged Dakdouk	FoL Fountain Valley	
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	<i>Absent</i>	L. A. Community	
Montclair Indonesian		Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp	
Santa Clarita Valley Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean	
Venice Beach, Talking Stick	Rich Braaksma	Trinity, Artesia	
Westminster, Ekklesia CRC	Jonas Muljo	Hope International	
Whittier, Ephesus Church	<i>Absent</i>	Urim Church (Cal South)	

102011:1.2 President appointed Rosewood CRC to review the submitted Delegate Credential Forms and Rev. Fatu Auau to organize the balloting team.

102011:1.3 The clerk presented the Clerk's Report on page 4 of the agenda. Noted on #1 Brian Willats will be examined according to Article 10 of Church Order. It was noted on #6 that Rev. Hyuksoo Kwon's ministry in the LA Sa-Rang Church ended in July 2011. The president requested support to end the loan and accept Rev. Kwon's return to Bethany CRC Burbank. **SUPPORTED.** Concerning items #9 and 10: Classis **accepted and approved** the transfer of the minister credentials for Rev. Paul Hansen and Rev Gary Stevens. Paul Hansen will serve in Artesia First and Gary Stevens in Hope International Church of Arcadia. Organizational support for a national Prayer Conference was requested by delegates of All Nations Church in Lakeview Terrace.

102011: 2 Classical Credentialing Team (CCT) Report by Rev. Erick Westra

102011:2.1 CCT made the motion to approve the Ministry Associate ministry description for Charles Ho to serve as minister of Outreach and Missions in Hope International Church of Arcadia (page 8 of the agenda) and to proceed with his classical examination. The motion was **seconded and passed.** The Synodical Deputies **concurred.**

102011:2.2 CCT introduced Marco Arandia as the Spanish pastor in Hope International Church of Arcadia and made a motion to officially accept his introduction and application to be examined for ministry associate ministry in Classis GLA. The motion was **seconded and passed.**

102011:2.3 CCT introduced the Rev.s Tae Young Kim, Chris Choe, David Lee, and Joseph Hyun as pastors in All Nations Church in Lakeview Terrace, and Rev. Byoungchul Joseph (B.J) Jun as a pastor in Ttokamsa Mission Church in LA, and Rev. Sung Chil Choi of Together Community Church **and** made the motion to officially accept their introductions and applications for CRCNA ministry according to article 8 of the Church Order. The motion was **seconded and Passed.**

102011:2.4.a CCT introduced Mr. Brian Willats as a 2008 Synodically approved candidate to serve as a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA. Brian has been called by Bethany CRC of Bellflower to serve as the Staff Director at the Institute of Spiritual Formation at Talbot Seminary in La Mirada. CCT made the motion to declare Mr. Brian Willats eligible for call and ordination as a Minister of the Word according to Article 10 of the Church Order. Classis proceeded with the Classical Examination. CCT called Rev. Paul Hoekstra, who examined Brian in the area of ministry "Practica". The president opened the discussion to delegates and deputies. Motion to proceed was **approved.** CCT called on Rev. Paul Hansen, who presented the sermon report. The president opened the discussion to delegates and deputies. Motion to proceed was **approved.** CCT called on Rev. Daniel Mendez, who examined Brian in the area of Bible knowledge and Theology. The president opened the discussion to the delegates and deputies. At the end of 30 minutes the president repeated the motion to admit Brian Willats to Minister of the Word ministry in the CRCNA and declared executive session of Classis. The motion was discussed, a ballot vote was called, a prayer was offered, the Synodical deputies left the room, and Classis voted on the motion. **The motion passed.** Synodical deputies returned and **concurred** with the Classis vote. The president declared executive session over, welcome Mr. Willats and the other Classis visitors back, congratulated Brian; and Classis prayed over Brian, for his ministry at Talbot Seminary and our partnership in the gospel. The Clerk presented Mr. Brian Willats with a Classical Diploma acknowledging that he sustained his examination and is eligible for ordination as Minister of the Word in the CRCNA.

102011:2.4.b Bethany CRC of Bellflower requested that Classis declare the position of Staff Director at the Institute of Spiritual formation at Talbot Seminary in La Mirada to be consistent with the calling of a Minister of the Word. The motion was made and supported that Classis GLA determined the Seminary position to be consistent with the call of a Minister of the Word. **Motion passed**. The Synodical deputies gave **provisional verbal concurrence** pending the official installation of Brian Willats in Bethany CRC on November 20, 2011. **Final written concurrence** will be given upon installation.

Guest Speakers

102011:2.5_ The president invited Steven Van Zanen of CRCNA World Mission to speak to Classis. He brought greetings from CRWM, listed missionaries from Classis GLA serving in overseas missions, and highlighted resources available on their crwm.org website. He also mentioned the availability of support for non-CRWM missionaries and encouraged partnerships. The president also invited Arlan Vanden Bos, the interim Regional Ministry Team leader, taking the place of Rev. Peter Holwerda, to speak to Classis. He reviewed the work and resources available to Classis churches and updated Classis on the timetable and process of finding a new Regional Leader for the West Coast Regional Ministry Team. The goal is to have a new leader in place in the spring of 2012.

102011:2.6 Classis takes a short break

102011: 2 CCT Report by Rev. Erick Westra continued

102011:2.7 CCT introduced Tim Becksvoort as an effective teacher with preaching gifts. Recognizing the need for additional preachers in the Classis GLA, Rev. Westra moved that Classis grant Mr. Becksvoort a license to exhort in Classis GLA for a renewable term of two years. President Lengkeek requested and gained support to proceed with the examination. CCT offered a report on the assigned sermon and called Rev. Richard Jones, who examined Mr. Becksvoort. The president opened the discussion to the delegates and at the close declared an executive session of Classis. The motion was restated, discussed, prayed over, and voted on by ballot. Motion **passed**. Executive session ended, Mr. Tim Becksvoort was congratulated and prayed over.

102011:2.8 CCT introduced Charles Ho as having completed his learning covenant and ministry readiness profile required for ordination as a ministry associate in Classis GLA. On the basis of Classis having approved the ministry description in 102011:2.1 CCT moved we proceed with the examination of Charles Ho. **Supported**. CCT called Rev. Gary Stevens, who presented the sermon review report. Rev. Westra examined Mr. Ho. The president opened the discussion to the delegates. Executive session was called and the motion to declare Charles Ho eligible for ordination as a ministry associate was seconded, discussed and **passed** with reservations and the advice of continued mentoring. Executive session ended, Mr. Ho was congratulated and prayed over. Clerk presented Charles with a Classical Certificate of eligibility for ordination.

102011:2.9 President thanks the CCT for their work and their report.

OTHER TEAM REPORTS

102011: 3 New Church Development Report (NCDT) by Rev. Tom Doorn

102011:3.1 Referring to page 9 in the agenda, NCDT updated Classis about the distribution of the Hawaii Funds and a pending meeting with CRCNA Home Missions.

102011:3.2 NCDT reported the end of Home Missions funding for the Hispanic Ministry Developer since July 1, 2011 leaving the NCDT short \$2250 (GLA share) for 2011 and \$4500 (GLA share) for 2012. A request was made to CRCNA HM to continue the support at least until the end of 2011. CRCNA HM agreed to continue the funding until the end of 2011.

102011:3.3 NCDT requested Classis to approve the membership of Joel Van Soelen on the NCDT.

APPROVED

102011:3.4 NCDT requested Classis to accept the application of Sila (Thai) Church of Bellflower for membership as an established church in the CRCNA. Rev. Henry Lengkeek, pastor of the sponsoring Bethany CRC, introduced Dr. Chalaitum and Mr. Dan Roberts, leaders of Sila church, and promised Bethany support in the process leading to affiliation in February 2012. Motion to accept the application

PASSED.

102011:3.5 NCDT referred Classis to the Finance team report on page 17 where the proposal to close the Classis Health Insurance plan to new applicants is made, and asked that the CLT evaluate the future of this plan. It was so delegated to the CLT.

102011:3.6 NCDT encouraged all GLA churches to continue meeting with members of the NCDT to discuss the state of and resources needed for evangelism ministry in their local churches. The results of these meetings will be shared in a comprehensive proposal in February 2012. The president thanked the NCDT for their work and their report.

102011: 4 Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

102011:4.1 The president referred Classis to page 12 of the agenda for the LDT report and invited comments and question. Bill Postma, LDT leader, noted that the 2011 GLA Synodical Delegate Reports and much more GLA information are on the GLA web site www.classisgla.org. Report was accepted with thanks.

102011: 5 Race Relations Team (RRT) Report

102011:5.1 The president referred Classis to the agenda addendum for the RRT report and invited comments and question. Report was accepted with thanks.

102011: 6 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) Report

102011:6.1 The president referred Classis to page 14 of the agenda for the CLT report and invited comments and question. It was noted that Rev. Peter Kang is a member of the CLT. His name was not listed in error. Rev. Brent Wassink led Classis in thanking Goldene Byma, our Classis treasurer, for her outstanding and lengthy work in closing the Crenshaw property sale to Harvest Church of LA. (see details in the Finance Team report). CLT also requested Classis approve the appointment of Mr. David Haberbush as CLT leader. Request **APPROVED**. Report was accepted with thanks.

102011: 7 Finance Team (FT) Report by Goldene Byma

102011:7.1 FT reviewed the treasurer's report on pages 18 and 19. It was noted that Classis GLA is now operating with a balanced budget and that the third quarter 2011 receipts raised the budget income to a 90% level. Motion to accept the treasurer's report **Passed**

102011:7.2 FT made the motion to accept the 2012 GLA Health Insurance plan cost of \$9,135. **Passed**

102011:7.3 FT made the motion to approve the 2011 budgets on pages 20 – 23 for a total of \$108,950 and at a rate of \$62 per contributing congregational member. **Passed**

102011:7.4 FT encouraged all the churches to pay their ministry share. If all the churches fulfilled their covenant commitment the per member ministry share would be less than \$50. The president thanked the FT for their report and work.

102011: 8 Miscellaneous

102011:8.1 The president invited Mr. Kyu Paek, regional representative on the CRCNA Board of Trustees (BOT), to give greetings and a short report from the BOT.

102011:8.2 The president invited Rev. Rich Braaksma to update Classis about the Talking Stick Ministry during his visa exile. At present he is in Canada waiting to reapply for entry into the USA.

102011:8.3 Rev. Bonny Mulder-Behnia reported the communications on the delegate credentials forms. All Nations Church announced the Southern California commissioning service of Rev. Julius Medenblik, the new Calvin Seminary president, on November 6, 2011 at 11:45 AM in All Nations Church in Lakeview Terrace. Bethel CRC of Sun Valley requested the removal of the Classis GLA clerk's filing cabinet to a better location. This task was delegated to the present clerk. Artesia First CRC noted that "First Artesia wants to continue to support the ministry of Artesia City Church, but cannot meet the growing aspirations of that congregation as they conflict with our present ministry and our own future ministry aspirations. Do you have any advice on this?"

And ... What rights do churches have over their own property as they share that property with other ministries, not accountable to their council or Classis?" These questions were delegated to the CLT to investigate. The president thanked Bonny for her report.

102011:8.3 The clerk reported that brochures from the Regional Ministry Team were made available to the GLA churches announcing resources for church assessments, ministry mapping and congregational coaching. CRCNA World Mission made brochures available announcing their resources for world missions. Rev. Maged Dakdouk made a newsletter available announcing the establishment of the Bridge of Hope Welcome Center to reach the Muslim community in Anaheim.

102011:9 Closing

102011:9.1 President Henry Lengkeek thanked the host congregations and their pastors; Rev. Matthew Le and Little Saigon CRC, and Rev. Jonas Muljo and Ekklesia CRC; for their hospitality and for providing the lunch.

102011:9.2 President Henry Lengkeek thanked everyone for their patience to persevere through the long agenda before lunch and made the motion to adjourn. Motion passed. Delegates were encourage to stay for lunch.