

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, February 25, 2014 8:30 AM

Hosted by the Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley, CA.

President: Brent Wassink, Vice-President: Tae Kim, Clerk: Sid Sybenga

022514: 1 Spiritual Orientation & Opening: James Black led devotions and Matt Ford led the Praise and Worship time. Carl Kromminga led the Classis in an extended time of small group prayer for the leadership development needs in the churches.

022514: 2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing

022514:2:1 President Wassink thanked the LDT for their presentation and asked the clerk to take the roll of credentialed delegates. A motion was made to seat the delegates of four churches who came without credentials. Motion was **supported** and **passed**. The clerk noted that 18 of the 24 established churches (not including Guam) were present and 4 of the 12 emerging churches (not including Hawaii) were present. President Wassink declared Classis constituted and appointed Tae Kim, Bill Postma and Norm Kredit to serve as the balloting committee, and the delegates of New City Church to review the submitted Church Credentials. Six first-time Classis delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRCNA. Other visitors were welcomed by the clerk. Noted among them were Charles Kim, Korean Ministry Coordinator; Steve Nyenhuis, Disability Concerns; James Lee, President of the International Theological Seminary; and Dick Van Eck, World Renew.

022514:2.2 The clerk listed the credentialed churches and delegates of Classis in the chart on the next page.

022514: 3 The CLT motion to approve Cindi Fairchild as the new GLA Stated Clerk was **supported** and **passed**. President Wassink welcomed Cindi Fairchild and thanked the outgoing clerk for his work.

022514:4 LDT presentation about Timothy Leadership Training

022514: 4:1 Sid Sybenga read part of the GLA Fellowship Covenant and introduced the members of the LDT. He then shared information about how the Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) program can help the GLA churches and how TLT hopes is to have Los Angeles be a Training Center for its global mission. The LDT hopes Classis GLA will have a number of Master Trainers by 2015. Sid also shared a handout about the three training tracks, and Julius Umawing shared a testimony about his time at TLT in January. The website is www.TLTI.org and All Nations Church will host a Training Institute on October 20 -29, 2014.

022514:4:2 The LDT requested Classis approval to use the surplus LDT 2013 budget monies to support the attendance of two GLA pastors at the January 2014 TLT in Houston and to pay the outstanding above budget expenses for the Spanish MINTS program. Motion was **supported and carried**.

022514:4:3 The LDT motion to increase the budgeted amount for the Spanish MINTS training program from \$5000 to \$7500 was **supported** and **carried**.

Classis GLA Churches and Delegates present

Established Churches	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen	Norm Kredit	
Anaheim Latin American		Tomas Ivens	
Arcadia Hope International	Sam Lee	Charles Ho	Myo Sook Cho
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	John Fez	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Clarence DeVries	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	Chuck Aardema	Tom Kornoelje
Bellflower, Bethany	Henry Lengkeek	Mike Whitten	Lon Wagner
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian			
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink	Bonny Mulder-Behnia	Fernando Valencia
Burbank, Bethany		Sang Jin	
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC			
Carson, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Covina, The Bridge			
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Tae Kim	Chris Choe	
Long Beach	Brent Wassink		David Haberbusch
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Tim Cordova	
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones		
Los Angeles, Harvest Church of			
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission			
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian			
Monterey Park, Chinese			
Pomona, Indonesian Protestant Church	Jonas Muljo	Christony Harahap	
Santa Fe Springs, Together Commun	Sung Chil Choi	Se H. Cho	Howard Kim
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Stewart Treiling	Matt Sapp & Julius Umawing
Westminster, Little Saigon (24)	Matthew Le		

Emerging Churches	Pastor	Parenting Church
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	Maged Fayez	Anaheim CRC
Artesia City Church		Bethany Bellflower
Bakersfield Campus of All Nations		All Nations Church
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission		Bethany, Bellflower
Bellflower, The Church on "X Street"		New City, Long Beach
La Crescenta, God's Dream Center		
Cerritos, Heaven Bound		Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue		Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuel Samoan		FoL Fountain Valley
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	Melvin Jackson	L. A. Community
Paramount cento Familiar Cristiano		Latin American
Riverside, Inland Jubilee	James Lee	Santa Fe Springs, Together
Santa Ana Hispano Americana		Latin American
Santa Clarita, Community	David Kong	Bethany Korean
Westminster, Ekklesia CRC (11)	Jonas Muljo	Hope International

022514:5 President requested the first ballots for electing the Synodical delegates to Synod 2014 to be distributed. The Clerk amended the names listed on both the Minister Ballot and the Elder Ballot. Classis delegates voted for Minister and Elder Delegates.

022514: 6 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) by David Haberbusch

022514:6.1 The president invited David Haberbusch, CLT leader, to present the CLT report on page 8 of the agenda.

022514:6.2 The CLT made the motion that all GLA churches calling a pastor who requires an immigration visa to legally work in the USA engage a lawyer at their expense. This motion was **supported** and **carried**. CLT was asked to provide lawyer suggestions and funding options.

022514:6.3 The CLT made a motion that Classis concur with the CLT appointment of Dan Brink as counselor for God's Grace Church in Bellflower; and approve the appointment of Carl Kromminga as the counselor for Bethany CRC Bellflower. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

022514:6.4 Stated Clerk report:

022514:6.5 Sid shared the Clerk's communication from October 2013 to February 2014 printed below.

022514:6.6 A motion was made to accept and approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013 and October 22, 2013 Classis meetings. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

022514:6.7 The Clerk noted receiving Ttokamsa Mission Church's request and Charles Kim's new Korean Coordinator Job Description printed below. A motion was made accept the new ministry description for Charles Kim without going through a new commissioned pastor Classical exam. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

To Greater Los Angeles Classis Clerk,

As Ttokamsa Mission Church, located in 1440 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA, we want to call Rev. Charles Kim to accept the offer to work as Korean Ministry Coordinator.

Rev. Charles Kim has ministered together at Ttokamsa Mission Church overseeing the Next Generation Ministry and also leading worship from January, 2009 till June, 2012. Since 2012, he has planted Ttokamsa Seoul Church in Seoul, Korea.

In November, 2013, Rev. Charles Kim has accepted an offer to work as the new Korean Ministry Coordinator. Below is the job description for his work and Ttokamsa Mission Church believes that it will be fitting for the new ministry. If you have any questions, please contact me at anytime.

In Christ,

Ken Choe, Senior Pastor, Ttokamsa Mission Church

022514:6.8 A motion was made to approve the new job description of the Korean Ministries Coordinator and designate Ttokamsa Mission Church to be the calling church for Charles Kim and for Charles Kim to fill the position of the Korean Ministries Coordinator. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

PURPOSE for Korean Ministry Coordinator

Lead the Korean ministry leadership team to catalyze and cultivate gospel movements in partnership with classes and congregations that result in starting and strengthening churches, campus ministries, and mission-focused ministries for transforming lives and communities.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following.

1. Serve as lead representative of Christian Reformed Home Missions in the area of Korean ministries.
2. Identify, form and develop a Mission Leadership Team that embodies the vision, core values, and strategic purpose of CRHM.
3. Convene, lead, and mobilize the Mission Leadership Team to:
 - a. Team Work
 - Cultivate and practice prayer and spiritual disciplines for ministry
 - Catalyze and nurture missional clusters

Cast vision, develop strategy, and set goals for mission-focused ministry in 1st and second generation Korean congregations, and potentially multicultural congregations

Promote diversity on the team in a covenanted relationship with CRHM Regional Leaders.

b. Partnership Work

Partner with congregations and classes to mobilize multiplication of churches, campus ministries, and disciples for engagement in Christ's mission

Coordinate with regional partners to provide strategic gatherings of church planters, mission-focused pastors, mission related church staff and other leaders for inspiration, learning, networking, and strategic goal setting

Partner with and support the ministry of classical Home Missions committees or classical ministry teams

c. Resource Work

Identify and help develop emerging leaders for mission

Assist in training/resourcing Korean leaders with binational office support

Propose, facilitate, and administer ministry grants in cooperation with the Home Missions binational office

Cultivate prayer and financial resources to sustain the mission

4. Serve as a member of the Home Missions Leadership Group Team.
5. Provide Korean, ethnic expression to the communication and advancement strategy of CRHM for equipping and developing fund raising strategies.
6. Serve as primary liaison/communication link between CRHM, the Mission Leadership Team, the Korean Council, and the Korean Relations Team (KRT).
7. Give coordination, direction, and leadership as needed for Korean Council as a vehicle for interagency sharing of resources to serve congregations, ministries and classes.

As Stated Clerk, Sid shared information on the Helping You Help Others – Care and Kindness Conference at Bethany CRC on March 21 and 22, 2014, the Safe Church Conference in Grand Rapids on April 25-26, 2014, the Pastor's Spouses (women only) conference in Toronto Canada, September 23-25, 2014.

022514:6:9 The CLT made a motion to accept the work and correspondence of the Clerk (listed below). This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

Clerk Communications Oct 25, 2013 – Feb 20, 2014

Received

1. Notice of Synodical Deputy concurrence of Classis actions to release (CO #14) Rev. Cha, Mendez and Aguhob. (November 6) Synodical forms submitted to CRCNA and filed.
2. From The Presbytery of Olympia (Washington) notifying GLA the receipt of Rev. Gary Stevens as temporary pastor to Harrison Square Presbyterian Church (November 11).
3. From Syndocal Office the winter Ministry report of the CRCNA to Classis. (November 18)
4. From CRCNA Yearbook and Synodical office communicating that the closing of the Talking Stick ministry and the merging/closing of the Ekklesia Church requires Classis actions. (November 16)
5. From Classis Rocky Mountain Classis the minister credentials of Rev. Zachary Vandenberg called to First CRC of Bellflower. (December 3)
6. From CRCNA Executive directors' office a request to inform the GLA churches of the RCA-CRC February 19 information meeting. (December 19)

7. From CRCNA's Credentialing Committee office informing the churches that Synod 2013 approved and now requires the "learning covenant" for person aspiring to become solo commissioned pastors to be approved by the credentialing committee. (December 18)
8. From The CRCNA Synodical office inquiring about the status of Revs. JJ Yoo and James Lee. (December 20) Explanation sent and accepted.
9. From First CRC of Bellflower announcing the installation of Rev. Zachary Vandenberg January 13 and a request to participate. (December 24)
10. From Dick Van Eck and World Renew request to address Classis at Feb 25 meeting. (January 12)
11. From WCCR copy of financial statement of 2013 and budget of 2014. (January 13) Minutes of WCCR meeting. (February 11)
12. From CRCNA Historical Committee to request GLA documents be sent to CRCNA archives (January 21)
13. From Rev. Henry Karsten announcing his retirement as the CRCNA World Mission representative in Southern California. (February 3)

Sent

1. Sept 19 & Oct 22 GLA Classis Meeting minutes (Nov 4).
2. GLA Classis Newsletters (Nov 4, Dec 16, Feb 1)
3. Request Synodical Deputies to concur with Classis GLA action of October 22. (October 24)
4. Classis agendas and minutes of Sept 19 and Oct 22 sent to CRCNA Synodical office. (November 12)
5. Notice of RCA-CRC February 19 meeting sent to GLA churches. (Jan 29)
6. CENT Fund contact people sent to GLA Churches (Dec 9)
7. Request Timothy Leadership training Leaders to participate in Classis GLA February 25 meeting (December)

Motions:

1. Accept and approve minutes of September 19 and October 22, 2013 Classis meetings.
2. Accept the closure of the Talking Stick and Ekklessia CRC.

Helping You Help Others - Care and Kindness Conference Bethany CRC will be hosting a Care and Kindness Conference on March 21 and 22, 2014. The Key note speaker will be Dr. James Kok, author and founder of Care and Kindness Ministries. Workshops will include: "Listening - Much More Than Words Can Say ~ Dr. Sandra Herron ♦ "From Forgiving to Blessing Those Who Hurt You: A Spiritual Journey" ~ Dr. Vicky Orr ♦ "Changing Lanes, Redefining Retirement" ~ Dr. Beverly Battaglia ♦ Coping With Loss ~ Rev. Jeff Funk ♦ "Telling the Story" ~ Fred Wind ♦ "How Do We Help" ~ Abbey Nishimoto and Lon Wagner. Anyone who cares for and about others is encouraged to join us! A complete brochure including workshop descriptions and a registration form is included below. For any questions please contact Bethany Church at (562) 866-1812 ex. 221 or e-mail office@bethanycrc.org.

SAFE CHURCH Conference in Grand Rapids

April 25 – 26, 2014 Information at <http://www.crcna.org/SafeChurch>

Pastor's Spouses (women) conference in Toronto Canada

September 23-25, 2014 Information at http://www2.crcna.org/pages/spe_spouses_conference.cfm

Timothy Leadership Training Institute

in Grand Rapids June 23 – 27 Cornerstone Colleges

in Los Angeles October 20 – 24 All Nations Church

For More information go to <http://www.tlti.org/>

022514:7 Guest Speakers

022514:7.1 Rev. Dan Brink reported on the Home Missions Board meeting held Feb 5-7, 2014. The Home Missions Board thanked the GLA churches for their monetary gifts. Home Missions went from a \$10 million budget to a \$6 million budget and continues to focus on church planting as well as campus ministries. Kingdom Enterprise Zones has partnered with Home Missions for church planting. Home Missions has 5 Classical Missional Leaders (CML's) for leadership on the West Coast instead of one Regional Leader. Sid Sybenga is the one in GLA. He was also appointed the West Coast Classical Missional Leader Coordinator and started that position January 1, 2014. Charles Kim was appointed the new Korean Ministries Coordinator and is taking the place of Tong Park.

022514:7.2 Dr. James Lee from the International Theological Seminary in El Monte shared information about foreign and local students getting their M.Div's at ITS. Dr. Lee expressed the hope of a closer relationship with the CRC.

022514: 8 The Coffee Break for Networking and Fellowship

022514: 9 Second Ballots for Synodical Delegates

022514:9.1 The balloting committee reported a second vote was needed to determine minister delegates for Synod 2014. The four most supported Minister Delegate nominees for minister were placed on the second ministerial ballot. The elder delegates elected on the first ballot were: Julius Umawing, Maged Fayez and Charles Ho. Only three nominees were presented. The results of the second ballot were as follows:

First Minister Delegate: Chris Choe; Second Minister Delegate: Joel Van Soelen

First Alternate Minister Del: Matt Ford : Second Alternate Minister Del: Sam Lee

First Elder Delegate: Julius Umawing; Second Elder Delegate: Maged Fayez

First Alternate Elder Delegate: Charles Ho.

022514: 10 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT)

022514:10.1 The President invited Tom Doorn, the CENT leader, to present the CENT report on pages 11-13 of the agenda.

022514:10.2 CENT made the motion to approve Rev. David Kong as the volunteer Korean Church Developer. As staff of the previous Korean director David served the CENT as the GLA Liaison. He continues to serve in this position. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

022514:10.3 CENT made a motion to approve the closing of Westminster, Ekklesia congregation since they have joined the ministry of the Indonesian Protestant Church in Pomona, CA. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

022514:10.4 A motion was made by CENT to accept the Indonesian Protestant Church California of Pomona as an established CRC church. The motion was **supported** and **approved**. Pastor Jonas Muljo ministerial credentials will be transferred at a later meeting.

022514:10.5 Joel Van Soelen shared about the upcoming Cross Connected worship service at Anaheim CRC on March 9, 2014. It was also noted that the CENT fund applications must be received by December 1, 2014 for 2015 funding.

022514:10.6 Information about the Hawaii Fund was given by Sid Sybenga. The Hawaii Fund Team's new members are Carl Kromminga, Tomas Ivens and Dan Brink. The Hawaii Fund Team is developing a plan for responsible use of the \$500,000 in the Hawaii Fund. This plan must be approved by Classis GLA CENT, Home Missions, and Anuenue CRC, Ewa Beach, HI.

Sid Sybenga shared some of the history of church planting in Classis GLA and the possibility of working with the L.A. Church Planting Movement and Stadia for future church plants in Classis GLA. Stadia provides a good system and consultation services for the first years of a church plant. Dan Brink reported on a LACPM meeting he attended and endorsed exploring a partnership with the LACPM organization.

Sid Sybenga also shared the financial statement of the West Coast Church Resourcing (WCCR) for July 2013 – June 2014. He also submitted the minute of the January WCCR board meeting. WCCR will continue to operate in its diminished role and may be of use in the future classis endeavors. Tom Byma is the new WCCR president.

022514: 11 Classical Credentialing Team (CCT) Report

022514:11.1 Rick Westra officially introduced Tomas Ivens the new pastor of the Latin American Church. Tomas Ivens has begun the process of being ordained in the CRC via article 8 of the church order. He is originally from Mexico but has lived in the U.S. most of the past 25 years. He is a graduate of Fuller Seminary and has worked extensively in community development as well as church planting. He has served with the United Methodist and Evangelical Covenant church. Most recently he served as Director of Communications for the Office of Social Development in Mexico City. He is taking Mirtha Villafane's place as pastor of Latin American CRC.

022514:11.2 Matthew Sapp is an elder at Bethel CRC of Sun Valley. Currently he works as a grant writer with the Sol del Valle Community Outreach. Previously he served as a pastor in Oregon with the American Missionary Fellowship. He desires to prepare himself for chaplaincy ministry and thus has begun the process of transferring his ordination to the CRC.

022514: 12 Race Relations Team (RRT)

022514:12.1 Richard Jones encouraged everyone to embrace and welcome each other and for the pastors to periodically exchange pulpits. He announced that Camp Dunamis is in June 2014 and the All Nations Celebration is planned for October 5, 2014 at 4:00pm at Artesia First CRC.

022514: 13 Peer Relations

022514:13.1 Classis GLA has 6 L.E.A.D. teams with Carl Kromminga, Henry Lengkeek, Matt Ford, Fatu Auau, David Kong, Bonnie Mulder-Behnia, Mirtha Villafane and Sid Sybenga as Lead Mentors. Henry Lengkeek has accepted a call to Fresno CRC. Henry Karsten has resigned as the World Missions Representative for the West Coast. World Missions is looking for a replacement.

022514:13.2 At the request of CLT, Sid Sybenga, the GLA Peer Relations pastor, presented the Safe Church Report printed below.

SAFE CHURCH CLASSIS GLA Report

Safe Church Policies. Every Church in Classis GLA is encourage to have or develop a Safe Church Policy. Resources, sample policies, and guides for developing a Safe Church Policy can be found at www.crcna.org/SafeChurch

GLA Churches with policies and annual trainings. Mr. David Haberbush (dhaberbush@lbinsolvency.com) is willing to consult and assist churches wanting to develop a Safe Church Policy.

In the case of an abuse allegation against a minor (-18) by a church leader call the police. In the case of an abuse allegation against an adult by a church leader you may call Audrey DeDoes (saadd@verizon.net) or Sid Sybenga (sshope10@yahoo.com) for advice.

A Church council can ask Classis to set up an Advisory Panel Process when an adult brings an allegation against someone in a leadership position in the CRC. This process allows churches to take allegations of misconduct seriously, and when harm has been done, to respond with justice, compassion and accountability. In this process, a panel of trained Safe Church individuals (the panel) is formed to hear testimony from the one bringing the allegation (the claimant). Again you may call Audrey DeDoes (saadd@verizon.net) or Sid Sybenga (sshope10@yahoo.com) to initiate this process. See the Advisory Panel Process steps at the www.crcna.org/SafeChurch web site.

Abuse is extremely harmful and counseling for the individuals involved is recommended. Two reputable Christian counseling agencies are recommended: CIFT Counseling in Los Alamitos, CA
714-558-9266 <http://ciftcounseling.com/>

Sync Counseling in Pasadena, CA
(626) 802-5490 <http://sync.org/>

022514: 14 Classical Credential Communications

A motion was made to transfer Henry Lengkeek's credentials to Fresno CRC. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

The request by Fountain of Life Fellowship Church to be released of their parenting church responsibilities for Emanuelu Church, Fountain Valley since they are now meeting in a new location and not at Fountain of Life Church in Fountain Valley was delegated to the Classical Credentialing Team for resolution.

022514: 15 Finance Team (FT) Report by Goldene Byma

022514:15.1 FT reviewed the treasurer's report on pages 15- 20 of the agenda. The report included team expenditures from 2013, fund balances, and the churches' ministry share giving record in 2013. Motion to accept the treasurer's report **Passed**.

022514:15.2 A motion from the Finance Team to forgive the \$40,000 loan to The Talking Stick was **supported** and **approved**.

022514:15:3 A motion was made to officially close the nonprofit part of the Talking Stick ministry as an emerging church in the CRC. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

022514: 16 Guest Speaker: Steve Nyenhuis: of CRCNA Disability Concerns, encouraged churches to become more welcoming to those with disabilities.

Guest Speaker: Dick Van Eck: of CRCNA World Renew, shared a video showing how World Renew has helped hurricane and tornado damaged areas in Alabama and New York with rebuilding homes and their lives.

022514: 17 President Wassink thanked the Fountain of Life CRC members for their hospitality and for the refreshments and the lunch. He then entertained the motion to adjourn which was **supported** and Rev. Tae Kim closed the meeting in prayer.

022514:18 The next meeting of Classis will be May 6, 2014 hosted by the CENT Team in Bethany CRC, Bellflower.

We are still looking for a church to host the October 21, 2014 meeting.