

Classis Greater Los Angeles Meeting

www.classisgla.org

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Bethany CRC, Bellflower.

17054 Bixby, Bellflower, CA 90706

Please print a copy of the full agenda and bring it to the meeting or download it to your computer and use your computer at the meeting.

(The Full agenda and the full financial report are available on the web at www.classisgla.org)

Also bring a signed copy of your Church Credential.

(blank pdf copy of Church credential is attached – print & fill out)

(emerging churches get your sponsor church to include you on their credentials or to sign yours)

8:00 – 8:25 AM Welcome reception

8:30 AM Worship & Business begins

Chairperson: Dan Brink Vice Chair: Matt Ford Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

8:30 AM Opening welcome and devotions: CENT presentation

8:50 AM Introductions and Credentials and signing of Covenant for Office Bearers

9:00 AM CENT report p.4

9:40 AM CLT & Clerk Reports p. 5

9:55AM CCT oral report

10:00 AM Guest Speaker, Steve Timmermans, new CRCNA ED

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM RRT/Camp Dunamis p.8

11:20 AM LDT report p.8

11:35 AM HMD and CML reports p. 11

11:45 AM Church Credentialing Communications to Classis

11:50 AM Finance oral report

12:00 PM Closing Prayers and Lunch

GLA FELLOWSHIP COVENANT

Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit. Ephesians 4:3

Prepare God's people for works of service. Ephesians 4:11

Be above reproach. 1 Timothy 3:2

Train yourself to be godly. 1 Timothy 4:7

We are a family of diverse Christian Reformed congregations,
whose pastors, elders, and deacons covenant together
to encourage and empower each other
to more effectively lead our congregations in the mission of God
in the greater Los Angeles region—a gathering place of all nations.

We believe we are ... Better Together

THE GLA PURPOSE

is to develop healthy congregations that work together and
encourage one another in making disciples for God's Kingdom in our region.

THE GLA WAY

1. Discerning together God's leading in our region
2. Developing healthy leaders for healthy congregations
3. Demonstrating CRC hospitality to all nations
4. Discipling new congregations effectively

GLA GOALS for 2014

1. Maintained and supported the Learning, Encouragement, Accountability, Dreaming (LEAD) teams to support the collegial networking of GLA pastors.
2. Provided three training opportunities for multi cultural leadership development
3. Communicated with the Churches the resources and activities for growth and involvement in GLA
4. Developed a strategic plan for GLA Church planting

HOW ARE WE DOING; HOW HAVE WE DONE?

1. **8:30 AM Opening devotions: Mirtha Villafane and Maged Faye**
2. **8:50 AM** Introductions, Credentials, Covenanting, and convening a Church Credentials committee.

Classis GLA Roster of Churches –

Established Churches	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen		
Anaheim Latin American		Tomas Ivens	
Arcadia Hope International	Sid Sybenga, Adriana Sybenga, Faith Lim, Charles Ho, Sam Lee, Kathy Xu Marco Arandia, Myo Sook Cho		
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen, Petr Kornilov, Hitomi Kornilov		
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra		
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg		
Bellflower, Bethany	Brian Willits, Lon Wagner		
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian		Mario Dogelio	
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink, Bonny Mulder-Behnia, Fernando Valencia		
Burbank, Bethany	Soo Min Bang, HyukS Kwon, SunHo Bae		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	Ricardo Aragon		
Carson, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Covina, The Bridge	Saejung Paul Chang		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Jin So Yoo, Tae Young Kim, Pablo Lee Rich Kim, Jin Phil Huh, Ken Hong, Peter Kang, Christina Kang, Jim Seung, Joseph Hyun, John Lee, Chris Choe, David Jineung, Abraham Lee		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink		
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga		
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones, Alison Jones		
Los Angeles, Harvest Church of	Ron Black		
Los Angeles, Tokamsa Mission	Ken Choe, Charles Oh, BJ Jun, Charles Kim		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	Tom Van Engen		
Monterey Park, Chinese	John Tong (emeritus)		
Pomona, Indonesian	Jonas Muljo		
Santa Fe Springs together Community	Sung Chil Choi		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort, Julius Umawing		
Westminster, Little Saigon (24)	Matthew Le		

<u>Emerging Churches</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Parenting Church</u>
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	Maged Faye	Anaheim CRC
Artesia City Church	Wallace Williams - CP	Bethany Bellflower
Bakersfield Campus of All Nations		All Nations Church
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	Jae Kun Lee - O	Bethany, Bellflower
Bellflower, The Church on "X Street"	Ryan Ver Wys - CP	New City, Long Beach
La Crescenta, God's Dream Center	Tim Kwon - O	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	Andrew Choh - CP	Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	Jerry Kraesig - CP	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	Fatu Auau - CP	FoL Fountain Valley
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	Melvin Jackson - O	L. A. Community
Paramount, Centro Familiar Cristiano	Enoc Rodriguez	Latin American
Riverside, Inland Jubilee	James Lee-O	Santa Fe Springs, Together
Santa Ana, Hispano Americana	Ernesto Mejias	Latin American
Santa Clarita Community Church	David Kong - O	Bethany Korean
<i>CP = Commissioned Pastor O= Minister of the Word</i>		

3. 9:00 AM Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) Report

To assist classical churches in doing evangelism/mission outreach and in planting churches; and to assist non CRC churches who desire to affiliate with the CRC.

Team Members: Tom Doorn (Leader), David Kong, Rachel Van Dyke (Recorder) Joel Van Soelen, Elmer Tandayu (Staff), Mirtha Villafane (Staff), Alison Jones, Matt Sapp, Maged Fayez, Chris Choe and Sid Sybenga (Staff)

I. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL BY CLASSIS

- A. To accept Rev. Alison Jones' resignation to CENT due to conflicting work schedule and to have the clerk send a note of thanks to her for her work.
- B. To approve Alfred J. McCloud as a member of the CENT team. Mr. McCloud is a member of Community CRC. He has been a deacon at the church; and is currently enrolled in ETP with Rev. Al Breems.

II. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Plan update

- 1. The CENT Fund Team will be doing mid-year evaluations of the grants approved for 2014. They are also looking at possible changes to the guidelines and will submitting any changes to the CENT team this summer.
- 2. Report on the Hawaii Funds and a unified vision for church planting by Sid
- 3. Report on Fan the Flame by Mirtha. Date is set for Sept 13, 2014
- 4. If you are interested in planting a church, see either Elmer, Mirtha or David and they will assist you. Also check out the Church Planting Manual that can answer a lot of questions of your role as parent church.
- 5. Reports by Sid, Elmer, Mirtha, David.
- 6. Tom is planning to step down from chair person this fall and Joel has agreed to accept the position of chair.
- 7. CENT plans to contact each church this year and receive reports from them about their outreach work so CENT can share the work with other churches in the newsletter.

4. 9:40 AM Classical Leadership Team (CLT) & Clerk Report

Our purpose is act on behalf of Classis between meetings, organize the Classis meetings, facilitate and coordinate the ministry of the Classical teams, and adjudicate issues that arise among the churches of Classis. The CLT serves as the administrative arm of Classis and serves as an access to Synod.

Team members: David Haberbush (leader); Mirtha Villafañe (Staff); Melvin Jackson; Dan Brink, Tae Kim, Sid Sybenga (Staff); Cindi Fairchild (Clerk), Brent Wassink; Peter Kang

Stated Clerk Report

Clerk Communications January 29 – April 12, 2014

Received:

1. From Sid Sybenga, communication to all GLA pastors to advise if names need to be removed from ballot for June Synod (Jan 29)
2. From Sid Sybenga invitation to the RCA-CRC together event in Buena Park on Wed. Feb 19 (Jan 29)
3. From Maged Fayeze the Newsletter to CRC Leaders newsletter (Feb 14)
4. From Dee Recker/Sid Sybenga information for the appointment of Alternate Synodical Deputy, Paul Hansen. (March 5)
5. From Staci DeVries a request to circulate the “Delegate to Synod 2014” information sheet to all delegates and alternates (March 5)
6. From Charles Ho, his completed Synod Delegate Form for June Synod 2014 (March 7)
7. From Will Verhoef the BOT highlights (March 10)
8. From Dee Recker greetings on being the new Stated Clerk with links to the CRCNA website for helpful information for Stated Clerks.(March 25)
9. From John Greydanus, Red Mesa Stated Clerk, greetings on being new Stated Clerk and reminder that he is available to be Synodical Deputy if needed at October 2014 classis meeting as he will be here at that time.
10. Received concurrence from Synodical Deputies for the job description for the Korean Ministry Director, Charles Kim.
11. Request from Tong Park for document for church to transfer from one classis to another classis. Advised to contact the Synodical Office.

Sent:

1. Sent Classis Team Devotions template to Tom Doorn (CENT) for May 6 classis meeting (Jan 29)
2. Ecclesiastical Credential for Henry Lengkeek to Classis Central Stated Clerk, David Vander Meulen (March 5)
3. Sent Classis Team Devotions template to Tom Doorn (CENT) for May 6 classis meeting.(Jan 29)
4. Sent Synod Delegate Information Form to Chris Choe, Joel Van Soelen, Charles Ho, Julius Umawing, Matt Ford, Sam Lee and Maged Fayeze for Synod, June 2014 (March 6)
5. Credentials for Synod 2014 to Dee Recker (March 6)
6. Sent completed Synod Delegate Form for June 2014 from Charles Ho to Dee Recker (March 11)
7. Highlights of Board of Trustees Feb 2014 meeting sent to all GLA churches (March 12)
8. Sent March 13 minutes of CLT meeting to team members (March 18)
9. Sent Feb 25, 2014 classis minutes to all GLA churches, Dee Recker and Kathy Smith (Calvin) (March 18)
10. ServiceLink Annual report and CRC Ministry Report sent to Bill Postma for posting on the Classis GLA website ((March 19)
11. Sent the CRC Ministry Report, Spring 2014 to all GLA churches (March 19)
12. Sent signed Synodical Deputies concurrence of Korean Ministry Director, Charles Kim, job description to Dee Recker and Staci DeVries (Synodical Office).

5. 9:55 AM CCT Oral Report

Team Members: Rick Westra (Leader), Richard Jones, Fernando Valencia, Matt Ford

CLASSIS TEAMS & TEAM MEMBERS

Classis GLA Ministry Teams May 2014		
<i>The goal is to have every church participating on a Classis team</i>		
<i>Where could you or a church member serve Classis?</i>		
Leadership Development Team - LDT		
<i><u>Develops and oversees training, retreats, and scholarships for leaders</u></i>		
Sid Sybenga	sshope10@yahoo.com	Staff Leader
Carl Kromminga	newcitylb@juno.com	Secretary
Mirtha Villafane		staff
Julius Umawing		
Lon Wagner		
John Lee		
Bill Postma		
Race Relations Team - RRT		
<i><u>promotes intercultural appreciation, cooperation, and multicultural values</u></i>		
Mattie Young		
Frank DeHaan		
Richard Jones	lacomunitychurch@att.net	Leader
Daniel Mendez	pastordanielmendez@yahoo.com	Leader
Ruth Palma		
Alison Jones		
Fatu Auau		
Classical Credentialing Team - CCT		
<i><u>oversees the credentialing processes for examinations for ordination</u></i>		
Rick Westra	rwestra@mac.com	Leader
Richard Jones		
Fernando Valencia		
Matt Ford		

Classical Leadership Team - CLT		
<u>Oversees the ministries of Classis and organizes Classis meetings</u>		
Brent Wassink		
Melvin Jackson		
Dan Brink		
Tae Kim		
Mirtha Villafane		Staff
David Haberbush	dhaberbush@lbinsolvency.com	Leader
Peter Kang		
Sid Sybenga	sshope10@yahoo.com	Staff
Cindi Fairchild	cindif@CRMinistryCenter.net	Clerk

Church Empowerment & Networking Team – CENT		
<u>Oversees and promotes evangelism and church planting in the Classis</u>		
David Kong		
Rachel Van Dyke	rvandyk@verizon.net	Secretary
Tom Doorn	Tcdoorn5@aol.com	Leader
Joel Van Soelen		
Elmer Tandayu		Staff
Mirtha Villafane		Staff
Alison Jones		
Matt Sapp		
Maged Fayez		
Chris Choe		
Sid Sybenga, CML		Staff

Finance Team FT		
<u>Develops and oversees the budget of Classis</u>		
Goldene Byma	classistreasurer@hotmail.com	Treasurer
Don Mulder		Secretary
Jim Zoetewey		Leader
Rich Hoeksema		

6. **10:00 AM Guest Speaker- Steve Timmermans, new CRCNA ED**
7. **10:30 AM Coffee Break**

8. 11:00 AM Race Relations Team (RRT)/Camp Dunamis

Promote ministry that is racially and culturally inclusive
in congregations and their local communities.

Team Members: Richard Jones, Mattie Young, Frank DeHaan, Ruth Palma, Alison Jones, Fatu Auau and Daniel Mendez.

1. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

All-Nations Heritage Celebration

When: Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 4:00 pm

Where: First CRC of Artesia

Theme: Accepting Each Other

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
(Rom.15:7 – NIV)

We will have a spirit-filled celebration in which we share the Good News of how Christ has accepted each of us along with hearing how others have been accepted. Communion will be celebrated.



Pulpit Exchange

In keeping with our mandate of being racially and culturally inclusive congregations & communities, we are encouraging pastors, councils, and congregations to connect more with each other. One way this can be done is in a pulpit exchanges. Our Classical theme is “better together” let’s find ways to live this out.

9. 11:20 Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

Our purpose is to help all Classis GLA churches become healthy ministries
by identifying, training, and supporting leaders for effective service.

Team members: Mirtha Villafañe (Hispanic Ministry); Carl Kromminga (Evangelist Training Program, Project Timothy); Sid Sybenga (staff) (Mentoring, Peer Relations, LEAD teams, & special projects); Lon Wagner, David Lee, Bill Postma (Scholarship Fund, Student Fund) – team convener

1. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL BY CLASSIS

- a) The LDT requests Classis to approve this one time use of up to \$5000 from the GLA Student Fund to support candidates for commissioned pastors and article 8 transfers of ordination to the CRCNA to attend the Timothy Leadership Training Institute in June in Grand Rapids. There are ten potential ethnic pastors in the process who need the financial support. Although the Student Fund is for M Div students, our GLA Fund is not supporting anyone at present. Our Classis is in need of commissioned pastors to church plant and minister in our diverse communities. Timothy Leadership Training is a key component of the learning covenant requires for ordination preparation.

2. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- a. Leadership Development Network/ETP: Rev. Al Breems leads a three year leadership training program that qualifies for commissioned pastor ordination in the CRC. At present we have three GLA students attending.
- b. The Scholarship Fund: Our \$7500 scholarship fund helps pay the registration or tuition for leadership training events for church leaders. The scholarship application is online at www.classisgla.org.
- c. Project Timothy: The leadership training retreat for high school youth will be held every second year. Carl Kromminga has organized and hosted this event for fourteen years and is seeking other leaders to join him in planning and hosting this much valued event.
- d. The Southern California winter Youth retreat was held March 1-3. 250 students attended.
- e. In our last LDT survey churches indicated the need for elder and deacon training, Safe Church policy development and Safe Church awareness training, and young adult ministry training. LDT encourages 2 – 3 churches to organize local workshops in these need area and to invite neighboring churches to these events. The LDT can help in the promotion and cost of these events.
- f. In June the LDT will be sending all the churches in GLA a link to a SurveyMonkey so the LDT can set goal in the areas of need. For those Churches desiring to grow in young adult ministries we encourage attending the Exponential Conference to be held in LA October 6-9 and the TogetherLA conference in Pasadena February 26 – 28, 2015.
- g. One of LDT & CENT's developing goals is to support, encourage, and unify our youth ministries and their leaders. The CMLs of GLA and CalSouth hosted a BBQ meeting in early April to explore the development of a coordinating council.
- h. Churches are reminded that Classis GLA has grants available for churches that want to do an assessment of their ministry to help them create a ministry map for next steps to greater church health.
- i. Churches are encouraged to send active and potential ministry leaders and elders and deacons to the Timothy Leadership Training Institute to be held in All Nations Church in Lake View Terrace October 20 – 24.
- j. After developing the classisgla.org web site and maintaining it since 2008, the LDT and GLA want to thank Bill Postma for his much appreciated work in this area. Communication is a key to effective ministry. THANKS Bill !! At this time we are seeking someone to serve as the classisgla.org web master.
- k. The LDT is developing a new set of SMART goals for 2015. Suggestions are welcome.

SMART LDT GOALS for 2014: (specific, measurable, Appropriate, Realistic, Time Bound)
By the October 2014 Classis Meeting the LDT will have

1. Organized and hosted (through the ministry of the Classis Mission Leader) a two day preaching seminar in partnership with Calvin Seminary at Bethany CRC in Bellflower to which all the GLA and Classis California South pastors will be invited. The tentative plan is to have Dr. Dale Bruner and Rev. Scott Hoezee be the seminar presenters. **Completed & recommended for 2015.**
2. Encouraged and empowered with financial support the churches of Classis GLA and/or church partnerships; at each of the GLA Classis meetings and through two strategically spaced annual emails and visits by the Classis Mission Leader; to organize, host and invite the Churches of Classis GLA to local training seminars, workshops and other leadership development events that meet the local church's needs. Examples: Small group leader training, elder/deacon training, Safe church policy development and annual staff safe church trainings, evangelism and outreach, youth leader training, or worship leading.
Long Beach churches hosted a small group training workshop.
Bethany hosted the Care and Kindness Conference
We are hoping some churches will host a Elders & deacons training
We are hoping some churches will host a Safe Church Seminar or Leaders awareness training.
We encourage churches to explore and investigate effective young adult ministries.
3. A. Communicated to all the GLA churches the nature, value, opportunities, and requirements of becoming a “master trainer” of the Timothy Leadership Training modules by having an extended presentation at the February Classis 2014 meeting and inviting candidates for the October 2014 Institute. **Done at the February Classis Meeting**
B. Organized, promoted and invited all the leaders in Classis GLA and California South to the LA Timothy Leadership Training Institute to be held in October 2014 hosted by a local GLA church in partnership with the TLTI staff through TLTI generated promotion materials, Classis newsletters, emails, and Classis meeting announcements. **Continuing action**
4. Promoted the resources and opportunities of the ministries under the auspices of the LDT through Classis agendas, mass emails to the pastors, LEAD teams, Classis Newsletters, and the classisgla.org website. (ETP, MINTS, Student Fund, Project Timothy, Scholarship Fund, Assessment Assistance Fund, LEAD teams) **Ongoing Action.**
5. Searched and advertised for new younger LDT members especially from our Korean constituency by Classis meeting announcements, emails and personal contacts. **Three recent additions were made to the team. Leadership Development may be encouraged through the a youth Coordinating Council.**

10. 11:35 AM HMD and CML Reports

HMD report: Mirtha Villafañe - Fan the Flame

CML report: Sid Sybenga - Initial Hawaii Fund pre-report.

DRAFT to go to the CENT team May 27: For input only.

HAWAII/ALOHA FUND 2020 PLAN for HM and Anuenue Approval

Introduction:

In October 2013 CRC Home Missions, Classis Greater Los Angeles, and Anuenue CRChurch agreed (see appendix 1) to expand the use of the Home Mission Hawaii Fund monies for church planting to all of the churches in Classis Greater Los Angeles. Classis GLA sees this as a wonderful Aloha blessing. This blessing has motivated greater ownership and responsibility for church planting in Classis GLA and has stimulated some enthusiastic dreaming and visioning for the expansion of God's kingdom in the metropolitan city of LA.

The Kingdom Opportunity

Los Angeles is a strategic mission field with the potential for global impact. Los Angeles county is the most populous county in the USA with nearly 10 million people. There are 88 cities in LA county. LA county is one of the most diverse counties in the country where the non-white ethnicities outnumber the Caucasian population. 47% of the population is of Hispanic origin and the largest immigrating group into LA county is Chinese. LA County has 67 Colleges and universities that host thousands of foreign students from around the globe. 5 million people have no religious affiliation. LA County is a gateway city for immigration and a gathering place for the nations. Over 200 languages are spoken in LA County. Many people are in transition and open to the gospel. There is a dynamic multi denominational church planting movement among the evangelical churches of LA county with a desire to seek the welfare of the city.

2020 Vision: Hopes and Dreams

1. Classis GLA will be a mission focused Classis with a priority and passion for Church planting.
2. GLA churches will partner together and include all the churches in church planting initiatives.
3. GLA will have a well-articulated and compelling vision and an effective church planting strategy by January 2015.
4. GLA will explore new ways and partnerships with Home Mission, LA CPM, Classis CalSouth, and the RCA to more effectively expand the kingdom of God in the LA region.

Values:

Churches Planting Churches

Local ownership and support

Well managed and financial sustainability – accountability counts

Multi-cultural new generation churches.

Mission Focused not denominational focused churches.

Possible Church Planting Scenarios in GLA

1. Staff pastors in large churches launch new church ministries or campus churches
2. House churches or missional communities with bi-vocational pastors.
3. A network of CRCs forming a management team to plant a church.
4. Residencies for potential church planters in training churches.
5. Churches planting new congregations inside their existing structure.
6. Community Centers developing worshipping communities.
7. New first generation immigrant churches.
8. Unity church plants between the CRC and RCA.
9. CRC church planters commissioned to LA CPM church plants.
10. CRCs participating in LA CPM church plants.

Strategies

1. Use Classis meetings, Fan the Flame, the TogetherLA Love LA conference, and other LA CPM events to create a passion for church planting and developing a compelling church planting vision in GLA. The HF team will articulate a vision statement for the October 2014 Classis meeting.
2. Invite the LA CPM network developer to visit the GLA LEAD teams and churches to create a pilot church planting network.
3. Be open to and exploring a possible RCA-CRC church plant.
4. The HF team will work with HM advancement and local CENT or GLA staff to raise funds for continuing the GLA church planting movement.
6. The HF will explore the possibility of supporting one two year residency for a CRCNA candidate with qualifications and aspirations in church planting. Hopefully this residency will be a partnership with the HF, HM, the church and Calvin Seminary.
7. The Hawaii fund monies will only be utilized to encourage and promote partnerships in church planting and will never be the sole or main financial backer of a church plant. Majority partners are always the churches.

11. 11:45 AM Church Credential Communications

12. 11:50 AM Finance Team Oral Report

Team members: Jim Zoetewey (leader), Don Mulder, and Goldene Byma

13. 12:00PM Closing Prayer and Fellowship Lunch

Next Classis Meetings

October 22, 2014 Sun Valley, Bethel CRC

February 25, 2015 Location TBD