

# Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:30 AM**

Hosted by Bethel CRC, Sun Valley, CA

President: Zachary Vandenberg; Vice-President: Dan Brink; Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

**02282017: 1 Opening and Devotions:** Abraham Perez led the group in singing 2 songs and Pastor Julius Umawing asked all to share around their tables what has encouraged, discouraged, and challenged them recently. He then read from Deut. 20:1 and pointed out that as we (classis GLA) pursue our goals for 2017 and continue to implement various ministries that will develop churches, equip the leaders, and promote God's mission we should not forget the truth that the LORD is with us. God's presence also enables us to work together as well as pray and praise God together. Pastor Micah Bruxvoort then closed in prayer.

**02282017: 2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing:** The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Fourteen out of 25 Established Churches attended the meeting. Seven of 13 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The President welcomed Dale Visser, CRC pastor recently moved to So. Cal, Stan Kruis, CRC Missionary, Sam Guitierrez, Faith Alive, Jim Beezhold, Sea to Sea 2017, Andre Adrianto, Trees Salim, Helen Gouw, Ussawin Vannarattarat, guests of Bethany CRC, Bellflower, Jong Lee, HIC, Arcadia, Victor Mendez, guest of Latin American, Anaheim and Steve Timmermans, CRCNA Exec. Director. Three first time delegates signed the Office Bearer's covenant, after which the president declared Classis constituted.

Established Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen		
Anaheim Latin American		Nancy Arizmandi	
Arcadia Hope International		Faith Lim	
Artesia, First	<i>Absent</i>		
Artesia, Trinity		Rich Hoeksema Steve DeVries	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	Tom Byma	Annie Biggs
Bellflower, Bethany	Jim Kuiper, Lon Wagner	Charlie Boerigter	
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	<i>Absent</i>		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink		
Buena Park, Grace Christian Fellowship	<i>Absent</i>		
Burbank, Bethany	Soo Min Bang		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	<i>Absent</i>		
Covina, The Bridge	<i>Absent</i>		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of	<i>Absent</i>		

Life			
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Tae Kim		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	Bill Bull	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Tim Cordova	
Los Angeles, Community			
Los Angeles, Church of Joy	Heui Moon Lee		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Ron Chu		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	<i>absent</i>		
Monterey Park, Chinese		Sophie Tong	
Santa Fe Springs, Together Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort, Julius Umawing	Stewart Treiling	Kathy Klaasen Rosario Ruzo
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		
<b>Emerging Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Parenting Church</b>	
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	<i>Absent</i>	Anaheim CRC	
Artesia, City Church	<i>Absent</i>	Bethany Bellflower	
Bellflower, Ethnos	Tomas Ivens	Anaheim, Latin American	
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	<i>Absent</i>	Bethany, Bellflower	
Bellflower, New Dawn	<i>Absent</i>	First Bellflower	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	<i>Absent</i>	Rosewood, Bellflower	
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	Fatu Auau	FoL Fountain Valley	
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	<i>Absent</i>	L. A. Community	
Rosemead, Sky City Church	Charles Ho	Hope International	
Santa Ana, Hispano Americana	Ernesto Mejia	Latin American	
Santa Clarita Valley Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean	
Westminster, NexGen	Duong Le	Little Saigon	

02282017:2.1 Carl Kromminga, Mirtha Villafane and Dan Brink agreed to act as the Church Credential Communications Committee.

**02282017: 3 Synodical Delegate Vote, Part 1**

02282017: 3.1 President Vandenberg requested the first ballots for electing the Synodical delegates to Synod 2017 be distributed. Synod 2017 is being held at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois and runs from Friday, June 9 at 8:30AM to Thursday, June 15. Classis delegates voted for Minister, Elder, Deacon and Officebearer Delegates.

02282017: 3.2 A motion was made to accept the following delegates and alternates. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

The results of the voting were as follows:

Minister Delegate: Tae Kim, Minister Alternate: Tom Van Engen

Elder Delegate: Tom Byma, Elder Alternate: None

Deacon Delegate: Dick Van Eck Jr, Deacon Alternate: None  
Officebearer Delegate: Julius Umawing, Officebearer Alternate: Matthew Le

**02282017: 4 2<sup>nd</sup> vote for Synod Officebearer Minister Delegate.**

02282017: 4.1 Julius Umawing was voted in as the Officebearer Minister Delegate.

**02282017: 5 Prayer Summit 2017**

02282017: 5.1 Ron Chu shared that the Prayer Summit 2017 this year is being held at TtoKamsa Church, 1440 N. Spring St, Los Angeles on March 27-29, 2017. The website for registration is [www.joinprayersummit.org](http://www.joinprayersummit.org)

**02282017: 6 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) and Stated Clerk Reports**

**02282017:** 6.1 Dan Brink shared that based on the report of the church visitors (Dan Brink, Norberto Wolf and Fernando Valencia), the CLT adopted the following recommendations on behalf of Classis GLA:

- 1) That Classis GLA appoint Rev. Joel Van Soelen as counselor to the council of the Latin American CRC.

Grounds:

- a) Church Order Article 9 specifies that churches which are “vacant” (that is, without a pastor) shall have a counselor or advisor appointed from a neighboring CRC to guide them as needed in the process of finding a new pastor. The 2015 C.O. Commentary stipulates: “Upon request, the counselor should attend council meetings to advise the calling church with respect to proper procedure and ecclesiastical regulations involved in calling a minister.”
  - b) The Anaheim CRC is the closest, neighboring church. In fact, they share the same facility, and the two churches have had a positive, mutual, caring relationship with each other for several decades.
- 2) That Classis GLA request Bethany Bellflower CRC to serve as the calling church for Rev. Tomas Ivens in his continuing ministry at Ethnos Church.

Grounds:

- a) Church Order specifies that an ordained minister is not an independent agent, but must at all times have “a call” from an organized CRC congregation, and that calling church must “hold his ministerial credentials.” Article 13b specifies certain responsibilities of the calling church in this situation.
- b) Ethnos Church meets in the building of the Bethany CRC of Bellflower, so there is no other council better situated to oversee and encourage Rev. Ivens in his ministry.

**02282017: 6.2 Stated Clerk Report**

Clerk Communications September 20, 2016 to January 20, 2017

**Received:**

1. From Al Postma, Classis Renewal Coordinator, Classis Data request (Sept 23)
2. From Eric Sarwar, Psalm Fest Event information (Sept 28)
3. From Bonny Mulder-Behnia, Multi-Cultural Event at Rosewood CRC (Sept 29)

4. From Dee Recker, Inspire 2017 Event information (Oct 5)
5. From James VanderLaan, Home Missions' new video (Oct 6)
6. From Dee Recker, BOT Highlights (Oct 10)
7. From Mirtha Villafane, Fan the Flame event (Oct 10)
8. From David Kolls' office, E. Sarwar exam materials (Oct 11)
9. From Becky Vanderzee, World Renew job opportunities (Oct 30)
10. From Faith Formation Ministries, Youth Ministry Invite (Nov 11)
11. From Dee Recker, Nomination for New Council of Delegates (Nov 18)
12. From Dee Recker, Credentials for Synod 2017 and Delegate Information Forms (Dec 2)
13. From CRC Communications, Winter 2016 Quarterly Ministry Report (Dec 8)
14. From Eric Sarwar, Invitation to Christmas Dinner and Carols (Dec 9)
15. From Lis VanHarten, Sabbatical Grants for Pastors Information (Dec 9)
16. From Bethany CRC, Bellflower, Installation Bulletin for Eric Sarwar (Dec 15)
17. From David Kong, Inland Jubilee New Church Info & CENT funding request (Dec 15)
18. From Joel Van Soelen, Disability Workshop Information (Dec 28)
19. From Tomas Ivens, LACRC to Ethnos update (Jan 5)
20. From Dee Recker, Synod Review Task Force survey (Jan 6)

**Sent:**

1. To CLT final minutes of Sept 15 mtg. (Sept 23)
2. To GLA Churches, Psalms Fest Event information (Sept 28)
3. To GLA Churches, Oct 25 Classis meeting agenda and materials (Sept 29)
4. To GLA Churches, Multi-Cultural Event information (Sept 29)
5. To GLA Churches, Inspire 2017 Event information (Oct 6)
6. To GLA Churches, Home Missions' new video (Oct 6)
7. To GLA Churches, BOT Highlights (Oct 10)
8. To GLA Churches, Fan the Flame event (Oct 10)
9. To GLA Churches, Eric Sarwar exam materials (Oct 11)
10. To GLA Churches, Timothy Leadership Training reminder (Oct 12)
11. To GLA Churches, World Renew job opportunities (Oct 31)
12. To GLA Churches, Oct. 25, 2016 Classis meeting minutes (Nov 15)
13. To Denom offices, Oct. 25, 2016 Classis meeting minutes (Nov 15)
14. To Jonas Muljo, Oct. 25, 2016 Classis meeting minutes for classis website (Nov 15)
15. To GLA Churches, Eric Sarwar invitation to Christmas Dinner and Carols (Dec 9)
16. To GLA Churches, Sabbatical Grants for Pastors Information (Dec 9)
17. To Synod. Services & YB Office, Installation Bulletin & Art 8 for E. Sarwar (Dec 15)
18. To Yearbook Office, Inland Jubilee New Church Information (Dec 15)
19. To Rachel Van Dyk, Inland Jubilee CENT Application (Dec 15)
20. To GLA Churches, Disability Workshop Information (Jan 5)
21. To Synod Review Task Force, Completed Requested Survey (Jan 9)
22. To Bethany CRC, Latin American/T. Ivens issue (Jan 13)
23. To Latin American CRC, Bethany/T. Ivens issue (Jan 13)
24. To T. Ivens, Latin American/Bethany CRC issue (Jan 13)
25. To GLA churches, Synod 2017 Nominations (Jan 18)

02282017: 6:3 The motion was made to accept and approve the Clerk's Communication. This motion was **supported and approved**.

02282017: 6.4 The clerk shared that if anyone is interested in being trained for the Safe Church Team for Classis GLA, they should contact her. The team needs at least 2 people and one person has expressed interest in being on the team

02282017: 6.5 Jerry Kraesig, Ewa Beach, Anuenue retired effective Nov. 2, 2016. This was approved at the October 25, 2016 classis meeting but was not reflected in the classical minutes.

## CLASSIS TEAMS & TEAM MEMBERS

<b>Classis GLA Ministry Teams 2017</b>			
<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>			
<b>Leadership Development Team - LDT</b>			
<u><i>Develops and oversees training, retreats, and scholarships for leaders</i></u>			
Julius Umawing	suiluj64@yahoo.com	Leader	
Carl Kromminga	newcitylb@juno.com	Secretary	
Mirtha Villafane		staff	
Ron Chu			
Katie VenHuizen			
Lon Wagner			
<b>Classical Credentialing Team - CCT</b>			
<u><i>oversees the credentialing processes for examinations for ordination</i></u>			
Rick Westra	rwestra@mac.com	Leader	
Matt Ford			
Richard Jones			
Fernando Valencia			
<b>Classical Leadership Team - CLT</b>			
<u><i>Oversees the ministries of Classis and organizes Classis meetings</i></u>			
David Haberbush	dhaberbush@lbinsolvency.com	Leader	
Cindi Fairchild	cindif@crministrycenter.net	Clerk	
David Kong		Staff	
Julius Umawing		Staff	
Mirtha Villafane		Staff	
Dan Brink			
Melvin Jackson			
Peter Kang			

Tae Kim		
Brent Wassink		
<b>Church Empowerment &amp; Networking Team – CENT</b>		
<i><u>Oversees and promotes evangelism and church planting in the Classis</u></i>		
Joel Van Soelen pastor@anaheimcrc.org	Leader	
Rachel Van Dyke rvandyk@verizon.net	Secretary	
David Kong	CLT Liaison	Korean Liaison
Mirtha Villafane	Staff	
Chris Choe		
Ron Chu		
Tomas Ivens		
Jim Kuiper		
Andrew Nishimoto		
<b>Finance Team FT</b>		
<i><u>Develops and oversees the budget of Classis</u></i>		
Jim Zoetewey	Leader	
Goldene Byma classistreasurer@hotmail.com	Treasurer	
Don Mulder	Secretary	
Rich Hoeksema		

<b>GLA STAFF</b>	
David Kong	Regional Pastor/Peer Relations Developer, Korean Liaison
Julius Umawing	Regional Pastor/Peer Relations Developer
Mirtha Villafane	Hispanic Ministry Developer

### **02282017: 7 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) Report**

02282017: 7.1 Joel Van Soelen made note that the Chinese Christmas Outreach Funds were received from Hope International Church, Arcadia after the CENT report was sent to the Stated Clerk for the Feb. 28 agenda.

02282017: 7.2 Joel Van Soelen asked that churches consider adding funding for a church planter to their church budget as many church planters funding is concluding soon.

02282017: 7.3 Mirtha Villafane shared information on the Fan the Flame event that is happening on September 23, 2017 from 8:30AM – 12:30PM. Further details will be sent via email to the churches.

### **02282017: 8 Coffee Break**

### **02282017: 9 Synod 2017 Vote for Alternates.**

02282017: 9.1 Tom VanEngen was voted as the Minister Alternate and Matthew Le as the Officebearer Alternate.

### **02282017: 10 Leadership Development Team (LDT)**

02282017: 10.1 Ron Chu shared that the LDT Scholarship Fund helps pay half the registration or tuition costs for leadership training events for church leaders.

02282017: 10.2 Ron Chu shared that the next Timothy Leadership Training will be held on March 21-24 at International Theological Seminary in El Monte. Localized training is offered for churches who have 5 registrants. Contact Ron Chu at [pastorronchu@gmail.com](mailto:pastorronchu@gmail.com), Julius Umawing at [suiluj64@yahoo.com](mailto:suiluj64@yahoo.com) or visit [www.tlti.org](http://www.tlti.org).

02282017: 10.3 Katie Venhuizen shared that Camp Dumamis will be held on June 18-23 and if you register before May 15, the cost is \$200. The cost after May 15 goes up to \$250. Registration is only available at [www.campdunamis.org](http://www.campdunamis.org). Please pray for the staff as they continue to prepare for their time at camp. All churches are encouraged to send their Middle School age students. Junior and Senior Counselor positions are available. Contact Katie Venhuizen at [bethelsunvalley@gmail.com](mailto:bethelsunvalley@gmail.com), for more information.

### **02282017: 11 Finance Team Report**

02282017: 11.1 Goldene Byma shared the Treasurer's' Report for January - December 2016.

### **02282017: 12 Church Credential Communication to Classis**

02282017: 12.1 Dan Brink, on behalf of the Church Credential Communication Team, reported that Monterey Park Chinese is concerned that the 2016 decision on the Same Sex issue was not strong enough in affirming the CRC's stance as articulated in 1973. The Majority and Minority Reports that went to Synod 2016 can be found at <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-views/agenda-synod-2016-available-online> . The Synodical decision on how churches should respond and help for ministers can be found at <https://www.crcna.org/news-and-views/acts-synod-2016-available> .

### **02282017: 13 Faith Formation Ministries Presentation – Sam Gutierrez**

02282017: 13.1 Sam Gutierrez gave a folder with resource materials to each church represented at classis about various helpful resources for church staff and ministry volunteers offered by Faith Formation Ministries. Churches may or may not opt to be part of a group of churches when using Faith Formation Ministries resources. Faith Formation Ministries offers 5 Toolkits and Anaheim CRC has chosen the Storytelling Toolkit to use. Each Toolkit is a compilation of practices from other CRC churches. Information can be found at <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation> .

### **02282017: 14 Sea to Sea by James Beezhold**

02282017: 14.1 James Beezhold, Crossroads CRC, San Marcos, talked to classis about the 10 week Sea to Sea cycling event across Canada from Vancouver to Halifax. Jim has entered as a fundraiser with the primary recipients: World Renew and Partners Worldwide. In addition, he has entered into a partnership with the Association for a More Just Society in Honduras to

receive a portion of the funds he raises. If churches or individuals are interested in helping fund James, please do so at [www.seatosea.org](http://www.seatosea.org).

**02282017: 15 Church Planter Report – Ernesto Mejias, Hispano Americana, Santa Ana**

02282017: 15.1 Ernesto shared that Hispano Americana started in 2012 with one family and they now have 50+ families worshipping together and have moved to a new location in Orange, CA.

**02282017: 16 Church Planter Report – Tomas Ivens, Ethnos Community, Bellflower**

02282017: 16.1 Ethnos Community is an “adventure of faith” according to Tomas Ivens. They have 12 new attendees at their prayer gatherings and worship. The goal for Ethnos Community is to have 30 families worshipping together by June 2017. The supplemental grant funding for Rev. Ivens has concluded.

**02282017: 17 Church Planter Report – Sam Lee, Living Well, El Monte**

02282017: 17.1 Sam Lee showed a short video of the various groups and activities taking place at Living Well. Their vision is to be shaped into a community of Christ who shares the joy of life together in the everlasting spring of relationships, worship and outreach. Sam asked for prayers for discipleship training for those interested and growing relationships with the host church where shared worship happens.

**02282017: 18 Church Planter Report – Duong Le, Little Saigon Nexgen, Westminster**

02282017: 18.1 God is at work in Little Saigon/Nexgen and young people are taking ownership of their church. The church is growing and the community is becoming more involved with the church. The church is training children how to pray, read the Bible and help lead worship. The youth are now excited about talking to strangers about attending Little Saigon/Nexgen.

**02282017: 19 Closing**

02282017: 19:1 The motion was made, **supported and approved** to adjourn the classis meeting.

02282017: 19:2 Zach Vandenberg closed the meeting in prayer.

**Next Classis meetings are:**

**May 2, 2017 – Anaheim CRC, Anaheim**

**October 31, 2017 – First Bellflower CRC, Bellflower**