

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 8:30 AM

Hosted by First Bellflower, Bellflower, CA

President: Joel Van Soelen; Vice-President: Dan Brink; Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

Synodical Deputies: John Greydanus, Peter Ryu and Will Verhoef

10272015: 1 Opening and Devotions: Pastor Zach Vandenberg led a time of singing and prayer. The president, Rev. Joel Van Soelen invited Rev. Sid Sybenga to lead the opening devotions. Sid, on behalf of the Classis Leadership Team, shared the GLA Fellowship Covenant of being “Better Together”. Sid then showed a short video from Home Missions about the work of Manny Ortiz in Philadelphia, PA and his community outreach. He then encouraged attendees to gather in small groups and discuss the handout. Joel closed this time in prayer.

10272015:2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing: The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Twenty out of 26 Established Churches attended the meeting. Four of 13 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The President welcomed guests and the three Synodical Deputies: Rev. William Verhoef of Classis California South, Rev. John Greydanus of Classis Red Mesa and Rev. Peter Ryu of Classis Ko-Am. Four first time delegates signed the Office Bearer’s covenant, after which the president declared Classis constituted. Sid Sybenga welcomed Jim Kuiper (Bethany CRC, Bellflower) and Ron Chu (TtoKamsa, Los Angeles), Charles Ho (church planter, Rosemead, CA.), Colin Watson, Director of Ministries and Administration, CRCNA.

Established Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen	Pat Cali	
Anaheim Latin American		Tomas Ivens	
Arcadia Hope International	Sid Sybenga, Adriana Sybenga, Marco Arandia, Sam Lee		Charles Ho, Grace Cheng
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	Brian Hibma	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Rich Hoeksema	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	John Struiksma	
Bellflower, Bethany	Jim, Kuiper, Lon Wagner	Stan Cole	
Bellflower, God’s Grace Christian	<i>Absent</i>		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink, Bonny Mulder Behnia		
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 Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Chris Choe, Tae Kim		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	Don Mulder	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Tim Cordova	
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones		
Los Angeles, New Ground Harvest	<i>Absent</i>		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Ron Chu		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	Tom Van Engen		
Monterey Park, Chinese		Sophie Tong	
Pomona, Indonesian Christian		Lince Payung	Saryana Juniwaty
Santa Fe Springs, Together Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Julius Umawing, Miguel Najarro	Christina Garcia
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		

Emerging Church	Pastor	Parenting Church
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
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	<i>Absent</i>	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	<i>Absent</i>	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		Latin American
Santa Clarita Valley Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean
Westminster, NexGen	Duong Le	Little Saigon

10272015:2.1 Brent Wassink, Carl Kromminga and Mirtha Villafane agreed to act as the Church Credential Communications Committee.

10272015: 3 Leadership Development Team (LDT)

10272015: 3.1 Carl Kromminga shared that Julius Umawing is the new team leader for the Leadership Development Team. Bill Postma was thanked for his many years of service on the LDT and even though retired, he will continue to oversee the GLA Scholarship Fund. Sid Sybenga is also retiring from the team. Highlights were given on the Evangelist Training Program, the two Spanish ministry leader training sites, the LDT Student Fund as well as the Scholarship Fund. Information was shared about the LDT Youth Fund, Camp Dunamis, Project Timothy and the LDT has approved use of the Assessment Fund to support churches who participate in the Renewal Lab or DiscipleForward cohorts. Please apply to LDT for support (Julius or Carl).

10272015:3.2 Carl gave a review of the goals for LDT for 2015 as well as the goals for 2016.

10272015:3.3 LDT presented the LDT TtoKamsa Mission Church (TMC) partnership Timothy Leadership Training School Proposal. GLA (under the direction of the LDT) and TtoKamsa Mission Church (TMC) are joining together to administer the TLT program as part of TMC global mission school. The proposed cost would be \$4,000 with \$2,000 from TtoKamsa Church and \$2,000 from the LDT budget. This motion was **approved**.

10272015:4 Classical Credentialing Team (CCT) and Exams

10272015: 4.1 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examinations of Rev. Jeff Funk and Rev. Julius Umawing and then hold an Executive session for discussion and voting. This motion was **supported and carried**.

10272015: 4.2 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Jeff Funk on the grounds that he completed the application process and completed the requirements of the learning covenant. This motion was **supported and carried**. Rev. Matt Ford conducted the doctrinal conversation after which the delegates asked further questions.

10272015: 4.3 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Julius Umawing on the grounds that he completed the application process and completed the requirements of the learning covenant. This motion was **supported and carried**. Rev. Richard Jones conducted the doctrinal conversation after which the delegates asked further questions.

10272015: 4.4 Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Rev Jeff Funk eligible for call as Minister of the Word with Bethany CRC of Bellflower as his calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Jeff Funk eligible was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10272015: 4.5 Discussion of the motion to declare Rev Julius Umawing eligible for call as Minister of the Word and Sacrament with Bethel Sun Valley as his calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Julius Umawing eligible was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Jeff and Julius were congratulated by President Van Soelen and prayed over by Classis.

10272015: 5 Coffee Break

10272015: 6 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Sherman Lii on the grounds that he completed the application process and completed the requirements of the learning covenant. This motion was **supported and approved**. Rev. Erick Westra conducted the doctrinal conversation after which the delegates asked further questions. Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion to approve the commissioned pastor ministry position with Sherman Lii being eligible to serve as a Commissioned Pastor in Classis GLA serving the Chinese congregation at Hope International, Hope International as his calling church, was held. A vote was held and the motion to declare Sherman Lii eligible for said position was **made and approved**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Classis congratulated Sherman Lii and Sid Sybenga prayed for Sherman and his ministry.

10272015: 7 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) Report

10272015:7.1 Brent Wassink shared that the joint role of the Peer Relations Developer was given at the May 5, 2015 classis meeting. That motion was tabled for further discussion. The following motion was made: The Peer Relations Developer job description is presented for approval. Julius Umawing and David Kong are recommended to be approved to jointly fill the position of Peer Relations Developer. The motion was **approved**.

10272015: 7.2 CLT received no report and no proposed budget from the Race Relations Team and recommends that as to the Race Relations Team budget the Finance Team recategorize the Camp Dunamis expense as a line item on the LDT budget and remove the expense for Administration and All Nations Heritage Service. The motion was **approved**.

10272015: 7.3 Brent shared the information regarding the Faith Formation Strategizing Workshop to be held on Saturday, Nov 21 at Long Beach CRC from 9:30AM to 2:30PM. The cost is \$20 for lunch and refreshments. Please register as a group by **Monday, November 16, 2015**.

10272015:7.4 The clerk presented the following list of communications for information.

10272015: 7.5 Clerk Communications April 3 - September 14, 2015

Stated Clerk Report

Clerk Communications April 3 – September 14, 2015

Received:

1. From Sid Sybenga, March GLA Newsletter. (April 8)
2. From Yearbook Office, Request for status of Rev. Il Yong Kang. (April 13)
3. From Jill Stark, Communication from the Candidacy Committee. (May 7)
4. From Dee Recker, Request for status of Isay Alvarez. (May 29)
5. From Dee Recker, Request for status of Kwang Chul Seung. (May 29)
6. From Classis Muskegon, Ecclesiastical Credential for Rev. James Kuiper (July 1, 2015)
7. From Dee Recker, Request for information on whether Classis GLA is incorporated. (July 10)
8. From Dee Recker, Updated Classical Credential forms. (July 15)
9. From Dee Recker, Summary of Synod Actions. (July 20)
10. From Sid Sybenga information for the CRC Faith Formation Workshop (July 21)
11. From Sid Sybenga, July GLA Newsletter. (July 31)
12. From Holly Koons, Request for information on Church Visitors (Aug 3)
13. From Continuing Education Committee, Documents to Review for Pastors (Aug 4)
14. From Jill Stark, Request for Student Fund Information for the Candidacy Comm. (Aug 13)
15. From Dee Recker, updated forms and information for Stated Clerks (Aug 21)
16. From CRC Communications the Fall 2015 Quarterly Ministry Report (Aug 21)
17. From Sid Sybenga, Global Worship Event information. (Aug 25)
18. From Sid Sybenga, information on Timothy Leaders Training, Sept 29-Oct 2. (Sept 1)
19. From Yearbook Office, Yearbook Questionnaire forms (Sept 2)
20. From Jill Stark, Nominees for Denominational Candidacy Committee (Sept 10)
21. From Classis CA South the Ecclesiastical Credential for Rev. Ron Chu (Oct 19)

Sent:

1. To GLA Churches, Prayer Summit 2015 information. (April 9)
2. To R. Bolt and D. Harms, digital copies of classical minutes, agendas, form of subscription for March 1997 to Feb 1999. (May 19)
3. To GLA Churches, May 2015 BOT Highlights (May 21)
4. To GLA Churches, Minutes for May 5, 2015 classis meeting. (May 21)
5. To R. Bolt and D. Harms, digital copies of classical minutes, agendas, form of subscription for February 2000 to Feb 2004. (June 9)
6. Communication to Monterey Park Chinese and Gloria Hsieh of CLT findings. (July 10)
7. Final CLT minutes to team. (July 17)
8. Signed Ecclesiastical Credentials to Bethany CRC, Bellflower for James Kuiper. (July 15)
9. Signed Ecclesiastical Credentials for James Kuiper to Carl Kromminga. (July 15)
10. To GLA churches information on Synod Deacon Decision 2015. (July 22)
11. To GLA churches information on the Sept 19, 2015 Fan the Flame Event. (Aug 18)
12. To GLA churches the Fall 2015 Quarterly Ministry Report (Aug 21)
13. To Jill Stark, information on the Student Fund in Classis Greater Los Angeles. (Aug 21)
14. To Holly Koons, Information on Classis GLA church visitors (Aug 21)
15. To GLA churches, Fan the Flame event. (Sept 9)
16. To Dee Recker, Confirmation that Classis GLA is incorporated. (Sept 14)
17. To Sid Sybenga, Information for Nominees for the Denominational Candidacy Committee (Sept 14)
18. To Rick Westra, Information for Nominees for the Denom. Candidacy Comm. (Sept 14)
19. To Paul Hansen, Information for Nominees for the Denom. Candidacy Comm. (Sept 14)
20. To Ron Black, Notice of classical action on October 27, 2015 agenda. (Sept 14)

10272015 7.6 The motion was made to accept and approve the Clerks Communication. This motion was **supported and approved**.

10272015: 7.7 The clerk made the following motion: Hope International Church, Arcadia is requesting that Classis Greater Los Angeles honorably release Rev. Gary Stevens as a CRC minister of the Word by Article 14b of the church order contingent upon his ordination in the PC USA (in January 2016). This motion was **supported and approved**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10272015: 7.8 CLT made the motion that Ron Black be released as a minister of the Word in the CRCNA according to article 14b of the Church order with the declaration of “the resigned minister is dismissed”. The motion was **supported and approved**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10272015: 7.9 CLT made the motion to approve the loan of Seung Kwang-Chul to New Life Church of Thousand Oaks for a period of two years. Classis GLA had already approved this prior to the Oct 27, 2015 meeting though without the concurring advice of synodical deputies. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10272015: 8 Classis Mission Leader (CML)

10272015: 8.1 Sid shared that the Timothy Leadership Training will have 16 certified trainers by the end of Oct 2015. He also gave updates on the SEAPI (Southeast Asian Pacific Island) churches, CRC orientation and credentialing as well as the Ethnos church plant (Tomas Ivens) and Nexgen (Duong Le. Sid introduced Eric Sarwar who is working with Artesia City Church. Bethany CRC, Bellflower has agreed to be their calling church and Trinity CRC, Artesia will host Artesia City Church.

10272015: 8.2 Sid introduced Frank Meneses who is a potential church planter in Long Beach, CA and is working with Mirtha Villafane. Frank shared his vision for the church plant.

10272015: 8.3 Julius Umawing and David Kong were presented with the book, **Pastor Self Care** by Sid.

10272015: 8.4 The motion was made to accept the Ecclesiastical Credential Transfer of Rev. Il Yong Kang from Classis CA South to Classis GLA, where Bethany Korean, Burbank will be his calling church. The motion was **supported and approved**. The Synodical Deputies concur.

CLASSIS TEAMS & TEAM MEMBERS

Classis GLA Ministry Teams 2016			
<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>			
Julius Umawing	suiluj64@yahoo.com	Leader	
Carl Kromminga	newcitylb@juno.com	Secretary	
Mirtha Villafane		staff	
Lon Wagner			

<p>GLA STAFF</p> <p>David Kong</p> <p>Mirtha Villafane</p> <p>Julius Umawing</p>	<p>Ministry</p> <p>Korean Liaison & Peer Relations</p> <p>Hispanic Ministry Developer</p> <p>Peer Relations Developer</p> <p>Classis Mission Leader</p>
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10272015: 9 Finance Team Report

10272015: 9.1 Goldene Byma shared the Treasurers’ Report for January through June 2015. The FT presented the 2016 proposed budget for Classis GLA totaling \$138,100. This budget includes a \$5 reduction for ministry shares with the new ministry share amount being \$57. This motion was **supported and approved**.

10272015: 10 Colin Watson, Director of Ministries and Administration, CRCNA

Colin shared about the emerging ministry plans of the CRCNA and the possibilities for churches, congregations and communities. Handouts for this plan were given to all attendees.

10272015: 11 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) Report

10272015: 11.1 CRC RCA Kingdom Enterprise Zone (KEZ) Church Planting Partnership. Motion is “that Classis GLA approve as a three year pilot project experiment the formation of a KEZ church planting team to initiate and oversee the CRC and RCA church planting initiatives in LA.” Ken Korver and Peter Watt spoke in favor of this CRC-RCA partnership. This motion was **approved**.

10272015: 12 Church Credential Communications to Classis

10272015: 12.1 Carl Kromminga shared that worship services for the Indonesian Protestant Church are now being held at CrossPoint, Chino.

10272015: 12.3 Hope International, Arcadia made a motion that the official retirement date for Sid Sybenga will be January 16, 2016. This motion was **approved**.

10272015: 12.4 Hope International, Arcadia made a motion to change the ministry description for Charles Ho from outreach pastor to church planter. He is planting the Sky City Church in Rosemead, CA. This motion was **approved** and the Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10272015: 12.5 Hope International, Arcadia made a motion to change the ministry description for Kathy Xu from church planter to Minister of Congregational Life at Hope International, Arcadia. This motion was **approved** and the Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10272015: 12.6 Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley would like to be included in work done regarding how to deal with same sex marriage requests. Tom Van Engen shared that Faith Presbyterian, Chalan Pago Ordot, Guam has decided that their pastors will not sign the marriage license but use of the facilities is allowed.

10272015: 12.7 Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley would also like information on how to deal with sick days for pastoral staff. Brent Wassink said Long Beach CRC has information on this.

10272015: 12.8 Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley will be celebrating their 50 yr anniversary on Nov. 15, 2015.

10272015: 12.9 Dan Brink and Joel Van Soelen thanked Sid for his many years of work in Classis GLA and then prayed over Sid and Adriana with the classis attendees laying on hands.

10272015:13 President Joel Van Soelen closed the classis meeting in prayer.

Next Classis meetings are:

February 23, 2016 – Location to be determined

May 3, 2016 – All Nations, Lake View Terrace

October 25, 2016 – Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley