

# Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017 8:30 AM**

Hosted by Anaheim CRC, Anaheim, CA

President: Paul Hansen Vice-President: Matthew Le Clerk: Cindi Fairchild  
Synodical Deputies: Will Verhoef, Marc Hofman and Jonathan Kim

**05022017: 1 Opening and Devotions:** Joel Van Soelen welcomed everyone and led the group in singing. He then shared Matthew 5: 43-45 and asked Pastor Maged Fayed to share about his ministry. Maged explained how the refugees are hearing the Gospel and hearts and lives are changing as they convert to Christianity. Joel then shared that Maged's church is not a typical church plant and if a church is interested in helping to support Bridge of Hope financially, it would be much appreciated. Joel then prayed for Maged and his church.

Joel then asked each person around the table to write down the name of someone in their church (not staff) "who has a missionary mindset."

**05022017: 2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing:** The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. 14 out of 25 Established Churches attended the meeting. Eight of 11 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The President welcomed Ben Katt, Western US Regional Leader, the Synodical Deputies as well as Rev. Sung Joo Lee. 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	Matt Hunter	Gary Cordova
Anaheim Latin American	Tomas Ivens		
Arcadia Hope International		Faith Lim	Jay Parker
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen		Tom Kamstra
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra		Doug Buurma
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	Tom Byma Greg Cook	Annie Biggs
Bellflower, Bethany	Jim Kuiper, Lon Wagner	Merf Tanis	
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	<i>Absent</i>		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink		
Buena Park, Grace Christian Fellowship	<i>Absent</i>		
Burbank, Bethany	<i>Absent</i>		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	<i>Absent</i>		
Covina, The Bridge	<i>Absent</i>		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	<i>Absent</i>		

Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Ken Hong, Chris Choe		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	Don Mulder	
Long Beach, New City	<i>Absent</i>	Tim Cordova Denise McCovey	
Los Angeles, Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Los Angeles, Church of Joy	<i>Absent</i>		
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		Kathy Klaasen
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		
<b><u>Emerging Church</u></b>	<b><u>Pastor</u></b>	<b><u>Parenting Church</u></b>	
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	Maged Fayez	Anaheim CRC	
Artesia, City Church	Eric Sarwar	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	
El Monte, Living Well	Sam Lee	N. Long Beach, New City	
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	<i>Absent</i>	Little Saigon	

05022017:2.1 Micah Bruxvoort, Julius Umawing and Lon Wagner agreed to act as the Church Credential Communications Committee.

### **05022017: 3 Church Empowerment & Networking Team (CENT) Report**

05022017: 3.1 Joel Van Soelen explained that Pastor Tomas Ivens expected to receive 3 years of funding (2015-2017) from Home Missions but with changes at Home Missions he received no funds. **Request:** *Motion for Classis GLA to approve to fund Pastor Tomas Ivens, Ethnos Community, \$10,000 from the Hawaii Fund for one year.* Ben Katt, Western US Regional Leader, explained that in the funding confirmation letter that was sent to Tomas Ivens, Dan Brink and Sid Sybenga, it stated the funding is guaranteed for MY2016 and that Home Missions was reviewing the funding process and funds are not guaranteed for future years. The motion was revised to: *Motion for Classis GLA to approve to fund Pastor Tomas Ivens, Ethnos Community, \$10,000 from the Hawaii Fund for one year, with funds coming from the Hawaii Acct (property sale) held by Home Missions.* This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

05022017: 3.2 Mirtha Villafane talked about the upcoming Fan the Flame event on September

23 at Bethany CRC, Bellflower. The focus will be on evangelism with 3 ethnic churches sharing their journey. Mirtha handed out a "Save the Date" flyer to everyone.

#### **05022017: 4 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) and Stated Clerk Reports**

05022017: 4.1 First Artesia notified the CLT that they requesting a call extension for Hitomi Kornilov who is currently in Virginia. Her credentials are being held by First Artesia. Paul Hansen explained that due to immigration and VISA issues her availability for receiving a call has been delayed. The motion was made to approve the extension of eligibility for one year if no call is received by Article 17-c. The motion was made, **supported** and **approved**. Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

05022017: 4.2 Brent Wassink shared that the CLT had discussed at their March 16 mtg the topic of possibly changing the day that classis meets. Mirtha Villafane explained how Classis CA South had tried several different options and all failed. The CLT decided to keep the classis meeting schedule as it currently is.

#### **05022017: 4.3 Stated Clerk Report**

Clerk Communications January 21, 2017 to March 31, 2017

##### **Received:**

1. From Rick Westra, Learning Opp. Trip (Feb. 8)
2. From Charles Kim, Prayer Summit Information (Feb 9)
3. From Ron Chu, Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) Information (Feb 14)
4. From Yearbook Office, Membership Reporting (Feb 28)
5. From Synodical Services Office, BOT Highlights (March 7)
6. From First Artesia, H. Kornilov call extension request (Feb 20)
7. From All Nations, C. Choe information (March 17)
8. From Karl VanHarn, CRC-Pine Rest-RCA CPE Collaborative (April 5)

##### **Sent:**

1. To GLA Churches, Feb 28 mtg agenda and materials. (January 30)
2. To Denom. Office, Feb 28 mtg agenda (January 30)
3. To GLA Churches, Learning Opp. Trip Information (Feb 8)
4. To GLA Churches, Prayer Summit Information (Feb 9)
5. To GLA Churches, Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) Information (Feb 16)
6. To Synod Delegates/Alternates, Synod 2017 materials (March 6)
7. To GLA Churches, BOT Highlights (March 7)
8. To GLA Churches, Feb 28, 2017 Classis minutes (March 27)
9. To Jonas Muljo, Feb 28, 2017 Minutes and updated Pulpit Supply List (March 27)
10. To Denom. Offices, Feb. 28, 2017 Classis minutes (March 27)
11. To Jonas Muljo, updated Pulpit Supply List for website (March 28)
12. To GLA Churches, updated Pulpit Supply List (March 28)
13. To CLT, March 16 CLT Minutes (March 28)
14. To GLA Churches, CRC-Pine Rest-RCA CPE Collaborative (April 6)

05022017: 4:4 The motion was made to accept and approve the Clerk's Communication. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

## 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
Mirtha Villafane		Korean Liaison
Chris Choe		Staff
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

### 05022017: 5 Leadership Development Team (LDT)

05022017: 5.1 Julius Umawing introduced Denise Tamminga and Christen Toyama who shared about their trip to the Chicago Youth Ministry Consultation on April 19-21, 2017. They recommended **Growing Young** by Kara Powell and Jake Mulder as a great resource.

05022017: 5.2 Denise Tamminga then shared that Camp Dunamis forges friendships and helps bring youth to Christ. This year Camp Dunamis will be held on June 18-23, 2017. The cost is \$200 if registered by May 15 and \$250 if registered after May 15. Contact Amanda Samia at 562-676-5896 or [DunamisAmanda@gmail.com](mailto:DunamisAmanda@gmail.com) for registration questions.

05022017: 5.3 Al Breems shared that the Evangelist Training Program (ETP) has been in existence for 20 yrs in helping to train leaders. Currently Classis GLA has 3 leaders who have been part of the ETP. Tim Cordova, Fatu Auau and Lon Wagner. Visit the website at [socaletp.weebly.com](http://socaletp.weebly.com) for more information.

### 05022017: 6 Coffee Break

### **05022017: 7 Classis Credentialing Team Report**

05022017: 7.1 The CLT made a motion to receive the Jesus Heart Church as an organized congregation in the Christian Reformed Church as part of Classis GLA. The motion was made, **supported** and **approved**.

05022017: 7.2 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Sung Joo Lee on the grounds that permission has been granted by the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee. This motion was **supported and carried**. Rev. Rick Westra conducted the doctrinal conversation along with Chris Choe (translator) after which the delegates asked further questions.

05022017: 7.3 Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Rev. Sung Joo Lee eligible for call as Minister of the Word with Jesus Heart as the calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Sung Joo Lee eligible was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Rick Westra read some of Rev. Sung Joo Lee's thoughts of his positive experience with the Korean Institute in Ministry program (KIM). David Kong prayed for Rev. Sung Joo Lee.

05022017: 7.4 Rick introduced Samuel Choi to classis as he is starting the credentialing process.

### **05022017: 8 Church Credentialing Communications to Classis**

05022017: 8.1 No issues were brought to classis for action.

### **05022017: 9 Requested Share Time**

05022017: 9.1 Ben Katt shared how the West Coast Region used to be comprised of 5 classes and with the transition of Home Missions and World Missions into the New Mission Agency (NMA), the Western US Region now has 11 classes. There is an effort to move away from being competitive in church planting to being more collaborative and supportive. A process is underway to add 7 Local Mission Leaders (LML's) to the Western US Region and they will work closely with the classes and Ben. Ben then shared about the new Partnership Agreement which replaces the previous system of church planting grants. If a church or church planter is interested in applying for one of the various grants, they need to fill out and submit a Partnership Agreement. They can then apply for one of many grants of varying amts. There is a maximum of \$75,000 that could be available over a 3 yr period, but the funds are not guaranteed for the full \$75,000.

05022017: 9.2 Tom Byma shared that each of the 5 original West Coast Region classes have a representative on the WCCR Board and that Ben Katt is a new member of the WCCR Board. WCCR is available to help church planters and do church assessments.

05022017: 9.3 Charles Ho shared a short video about the ministries at Sky City, Rosemead. The ministry started in 2013 and some of the programs/ministries include a park ministry, small groups and Bible studies.

**05022017: 10 Lunch and Closing**

05022017: 10.1 The motion was made, **supported** and **approved** to adjourn the classis meeting.

05022017: 10.2 Paul Hansen closed the meeting in prayer and Joel Van Soelen led the group in the singing of one song.

**Next Classis meeting:**

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