

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 8:30 AM

Hosted by Bethany CRC, Bellflower, CA

President: Matt Ford; Vice-President: Brent Wassink; Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

Synodical Deputies: John Greydanus, Will Verhoef and Mark Hofman

02232016: 1 Opening and Devotions: Pastor Joel Van Soelen asked all to share around their tables what has encouraged, discouraged, and challenged them recently. He then read from Psalm 28 three times with silence in between and asked what word or words in Psalm 28 God was using to speak to us. He then closed in prayer.

02232016: 2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing: The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Twenty out of 25 Established Churches attended the meeting. Five of 14 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The President welcomed David Koll, Director of Candidacy and the three Synodical Deputies: Rev. William Verhoef of Classis California South, Rev. John Greydanus of Classis Red Mesa and Rev. Mark Hofman of Classis Central CA. Six 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	Bill Postma	
Anaheim Latin American		Tomas Ivens	
Arcadia Hope International	Sam Lee	Faith Lim	Grace Cheng
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	Rich Boersma	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Rich Hoeksema	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	John Struiksma	
Bellflower, Bethany	Jim Kuiper, Lon Wagner	Mike Whitten Merf Tanis	Ray Yeates
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	Saejung Chang		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		

Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Tae Kim		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	John Bakker	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Tim Cordova	Denise McCovey
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones, Alison Jones		Linda Coffman Veronica Lyles
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Ron Chu		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	<i>absent</i>		
Monterey Park, Chinese		Sophie Tong	
Pomona, Indonesian Christian	Jonas Muljo	Lince Payung	Saryana Juniwaty
Santa Fe Springs, Together Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Julius Umawing,	Kathy Klaasen
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		
	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Parenting Church</u>	
<u>Emerging Church</u>			
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	<i>Absent</i>	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	
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	Melvin Jackson	L. A. Community	
Rosemead, Sky City Church		Hope International	
Santa Ana, Hispano Americana		Latin American	
Santa Clarita Valley Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean	
Westminster, NexGen	Duong Le	Little Saigon	

02232016:2.1 Carl Kromminga, Micah Bruxvoort and Dan Brink agreed to act as the Church Credential Communications Committee.

02232016: 3 Renew16, Bonny Mulder Behnia

02232016: 3.1 Bonny Mulder Behnia shared that Renew16 is a week long time of devotions, community service, evening activities and meals. All churches are encouraged to send their high school students. Renew16 will be held at Rosewood CRC from July 16-23 and the cost for the week is \$300.

Registration deadline is: April 1, 2016.

02232016: 4 Classical Credentialing Team (CCT) and Article 8 Exams

02232016: 4.1 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Shu-Min Cheng and then hold an Executive session for discussion and voting. This motion was **supported and carried.**

02232016: 4.2 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Shu-Min Cheng on the grounds that she completed the application process and completed the requirements of the learning covenant. This motion was **supported and carried.** Rev. Rick Westra conducted the doctrinal conversation after which the delegates asked further questions.

02232016: 4.3 Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Rev Shu-Min Cheng eligible for call as Minister of the Word with Hope International, Arcadia as her calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Shu-Min Cheng eligible was **made and supported.** The Synodical Deputies **concurred.** Sam Lee prayed for Rev. Shu-Min Cheng.

02232016: 4.4 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Tomas Ivens on the grounds that he completed the application process and completed the requirements of the learning covenant. This motion was **supported and carried.** Rev. Joel Van Soelen conducted the doctrinal conversation after which the delegates asked further questions.

02232016: 4.5 General Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Rev Tomas Ivens eligible for call as Minister of the Word with Latin American CRC, Anaheim as his calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Tomas Ivens eligible was **made and supported.** The Synodical Deputies **concurred.** Rev. Richard Jones prayed for Rev. Tomas Ivens.

02232016: 5 Coffee Break

02232016: 6 Church Credentialing Communication to Classis

02232016: 6:1 On behalf of the Church Credentialing Communication team, Dan Brink shared that Mike Whitten had agreed to be the Elder Delegate for Synod 2016. No other names were nominated.

02232016: 6:2 All Nations Church, Lake View Terrace made a motion to honorably release Rev. Jin Soo Yoo through Article 13c. Rev. Jin Soo Yoo has accepted a call to Hosanna Church of South Korea. The motion was **made and supported.** The Synodical Deputies **concurred.**

02232016: 6:3 Background and History: L.A. Community Church began in 1980 when the First CRC of Los Angeles, responding to a demographic change in the community, decided to give their facility toward the establishment of an African American CRC. After 35 years of fruitful ministry, the congregation is facing the challenge of navigating through another demographic change. Our community is now 59% Hispanic. Over the last few years, our members have aged and some have gone

to glory. Others have moved out of the community. Our membership has declined. As a result, our financial resources have not been able to meet the demands of our ministry. It is clear to all parties that at the present pace of expenditures, we will be out of money by June 30, 2016.

As a result of our financial situation, we are unable to pay a full time pastor at this time. We have been in close communication with our pastor about this situation. We wish to make it clear that the issue is not the integrity or ability of Pastor Richard Jones, who has served our congregation faithfully for 7 years. We simply do not have the finances to continue to employ a pastor.

02232016: 6:4 L.A. Community made a motion that Rev. Richard Jones and Rev. Alison Jones be released from active ministerial service in our congregation, under Article 17a of the Church Order. The motion was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

02232016: 6:5 L.A. Community made a motion that Rev. Richard Jones and Rev. Alison Jones be declared eligible for a call in the CRC. The motion was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

02232016: 6:6 L.A. Community made a motion that Classis GLA loan \$65,000 to LAC CRC to pay for Rev. Richard Jones' severance package, which includes up to 6 months of his present compensation package, including salary, pension, health insurance, housing tax, and utilities. It also provides funds for maintenance and repairs on the parsonage. A legal contract will be signed, designating the parsonage as collateral and guaranteeing repayment of the loan within 20 months. The motion was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

02232016: 6:7 Santa Fe Springs, Together Community made a motion: That Classis GLA acknowledge that a de facto separation has taken place between Rev. Sung Chil Choi and the Together Community CRC, resulting also in the division of the church into two worshipping groups. We refer this matter to the Classical Leadership Team and to church visitors, requesting that they determine the status of the pastor and the two worshipping groups that have been divided, and that they bring back a report to the May classis meeting, including recommendations for moving forward. The motion was **made and supported**.

02232016: 7 Derek Atkins, Project Coordinator, Connections Project

02232016:7.1 Derek Atkins shared that the purpose of the Connections Project is to create a model (or models) for resourcing congregations at the regional/classical level to help congregations in the CRC have access to the resources necessary to flourish. They believe that relational discernment and sharing of what works and what doesn't is far more effective than centralized resourcing by those unfamiliar with the congregation and the context in which the congregation does ministry. A regional team would be formed of three local leaders in each region, hired and trained to provide resourcing and coaching support. Participants were asked to complete the questionnaire that Derek handed out and return showing their churches interest in this project.

02232016: 8 Lunch

02232016: 9 Synodical Delegate Vote, Part 1

02232016: 9:1 President Ford requested the first ballots for electing the Synodical delegates to Synod 2016 be distributed. Synod 2016 is being held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI and runs from Friday, June 10 at 8:30AM to Friday, June 17. Classis delegates voted for Minister, Deacon and Officebearer Delegates.

02232016: 9.2 A motion was made to empower CLT to find a Deacon delegate and alternate to attend Synod 2016. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

02232016: 9.3 A motion was made to accept Merf Tanis as the Elder Alternate for Synod 2016. This motion was **supported** and **approved**.

The results of the voting were as follows:

Minister Delegate: Sam Lee, Minister Alternate: Brent Wassink

Elder Delegate: Mike Whitten, Elder Alternate: Merf Tanis

Deacon Delegate: CLT will find, Deacon Alternate: CLT will find

Officebearer Delegate: Fernando Valencia, Officebearer Alternate: Matt Ford

02232016: 10 Classical Credentialing Team (CCT) and Article 23 Exams

02232016: 10:1 The motion was made to approve the job description for Brenda Sansom-Moorey as a Commissioned Pastor of Congregational Life for the Chinese congregation at Hope International, Arcadia, CA. The motion was **supported and approved**.

02232016: 10:2 The motion was made to proceed with the doctrinal conversation for Brenda Sansom-Moorey on the grounds that she has met the requirements set by classis for ordination as a Commissioned Pastor. The motion was **supported and approved**.

02232016: 10:3 General Executive Session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Brenda Sansom-Moorey eligible for call as a Commissioned Pastor in Classis GLA serving the Chinese congregation of Hope International, Arcadia with Hope International, Arcadia as her calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Brenda Sansom-Moorey eligible was **made and supported**. Sophie Tong prayed for Brenda Sansom-Moorey.

02232016: 10:4 The motion was made to approve the job description Suni Tsai as a Commissioned Pastor of Worship for the Chinese congregation at Hope International, Arcadia, CA. The motion was **supported and approved**.

02232016: 10:5 The motion was made to proceed with the doctrinal conversation for Suni Tsai on the grounds that she has met the requirements set by classis for ordination as a Commissioned Pastor. The motion was **supported and approved**.

02232016: 10:6 General Executive Session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Suni Tsai eligible for call as a Commissioned Pastor in Classis GLA serving the Chinese congregation of Hope International, Arcadia with Hope International, Arcadia as her calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Suni Tsai eligible was **made and supported**. Rev. Ron Chu prayed for Suni Tsai.

02232016: 11 Stated Clerk Report

Clerk Communications September 30, 2015 to January 22, 2016

Received:

1. From Yearbook Office, Yearbook Questionnaire, (Sept 2)
2. From Sid Sybenga, Invite to L.A. Ch. Planting Process (Sept 30)
3. From Glenn Spoolstra, Classis Mailing List, (Sept 30)
4. From Gary Stevens, Request for Change, (Sept 30)
5. From Dee Recker, BOT Highlights, (Oct 7)
6. From Dee Recker, Nominations for Advisers to Synod (Oct 23)
7. From Sid Sybenga, GLA CENT Fund, (Nov 11)
8. From Eric Sarwar, Artesia City, (Nov 12)
9. From Eric Sarwar, Invitation to Christmas Dinner (Nov 12)
10. From Sid Sybenga, GLA Newsletter (Nov 13)
11. From Lon Wagner, Brian Willats Status (Nov 17)
12. From Dee Recker, Creds for Synod Del. Info Forms (Nov 20)
13. From Hendrina Van Spronsen, Historical materials, (Dec 15)
14. From Lis Van Harten, Sabbatical Grants for Pastors, (Dec 22)
15. From Bethel CRC, Sun Valley, Overture for Feb 23 (Dec 22)
16. From Sid Sybenga, GLA Newsletter (Jan 5)
17. From Lis VanHarten, Classis Renewal Coordinator, (Jan 8)
18. From Bonnie Talsma, World Renew Delegate, (Jan 8)

Sent:

1. To Jonas Muljo, Oct 27 classis materials (Sept 30)
2. To GLA Churches, Materials for Oct 27, (Sept 30)
3. To Synodical Deputies, Gary Stevens Request (Sept 30)
4. To GLA Churches, BOT Highlights (Oct 7)
5. To Joel Van Soelen, Dan Brink, Chairing a classis mtg, (Oct 7)
6. To GLA Churches, KEZ Proposal for Oct 27, (Oct 19)
7. To Glenn Spoolstra, Classis Mailing List, (Oct 23)
8. To GLA Churches, Bkgrd materials for candidates (Oct 26)
9. To Dee Recker, Synodical Deputy info G. Stevens (Oct 27)
10. To Dee Recker, Gary Stevens Art 14b (Oct 27)
11. To Dee Recker, Sherman Lii Art 23a (Oct 27)
12. To Dee Recker, Ron Black Art 14b (Oct 27)
13. To Dee Recker, Kathy Xu Art 23a (Oct 27)
14. To Dee Recker, Seung Kwang Chul Art 13c (Oct 27)
15. To Dee Recker, Charles Ho Art 23a (Oct 27)
16. To Dee Recker, Jeffrey Funk (Nov 10)
17. To Eric Sarwar, Artesia City Church name, (Nov 12)
18. To Dee Recker, Sid Sybenga Retirement info (Nov 12)
19. To Dee Recker, Ron Chu Ecc. Credential Transfer (Nov 12)

20. To Gary Stevens, Oct 27 classis decision (Nov 12)
21. To GLA Churches, Invitation to Christmas Dinner, (Nov 13)
22. To GLA Churches, Oct 27 Minutes (Nov 13)
23. To Dee Recker, Oct 27 Minutes (Nov 13)
24. To Dee Recker, Brian Willats Status (Nov 17)
25. To Yearbook Office, Yearbook Questionnaire, (Nov 25)
26. To select GLA Churches, Information for Historical Comm. (Dec 15)
27. To Hendrina Van Spronsen, Historical Materials (Dec 16)
28. To GLA Churches, Sabbatical Grants for Pastors, (Jan 6)
29. To GLA Churches, Classis Renewal Coordinator (Jan 8)
30. To GLA Churches, World Renew Delegate, (Jan 9)
31. To Dee Recker, Nominations for Advisors Synod, (Jan 18)
32. To GLA Churches, Synod 2016 Delegates Info. (Jan 19)

02232016: 11:1 The motion was made to accept and approve the Clerks Communication. This motion was **supported and approved**.

02232016: 11.2 The clerk shared that September 15 is the deadline for receiving information from each church whose ministry credentials (ordained ministers, evangelist, etc) they hold. This information is needed for the Yearbook Office. If the information is not received by that date, it will not be included in next year's Yearbook. A reminder email will be sent to each church.

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		

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>		
David Haberbush	dhaberbush@lbinsolvency.com	Leader
Cindi Fairchild	cindif@crministrycenter.net	Clerk
Julius Umawing		Staff
Mirtha Villafane		Staff
Brent Wassink		
Melvin Jackson		
Dan Brink		
Tae Young		
Peter Kang		

Church Empowerment & Networking Team – CENT		
<u>Oversees and promotes evangelism and church planting in the Classis</u>		
Joel Van Soelen	pastor@anaheimcrc.org	Leader
Rachel Van Dyke	rvandyk@verizon.net	Secretary
David Kong		CLT Liaison
Mirtha Villafane		Staff
Andrew Nishimoto		
A.J. McCloud		
Chris Choe		

Finance Team FT		
<u>Develops and oversees the budget of Classis</u>		
Jim Zoetewey		Leader
Goldene Byma	classistreasurer@hotmail.com	Treasurer
Don Mulder		Secretary
Rich Hoeksema		
Classis Pastor		Classis Liaison
GLA STAFF		Ministry
David Kong		Korean Liaison & Peer Relations
Mirtha Villafane		Hispanic Ministry Developer

Julius Umawing	Peer Relations Developer Classis Mission Leader
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02232016: 12 Finance Team Report

02232016: 12.1 Goldene Byma shared the Treasurers’ Report for January through December 2016. The FT This motion was **supported and approved**.

02232016: 13 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) Report

02232016: 13.1 Joel Van Soelen shared that the deadline for CENT Fund Applications for 2016 is December 1, 2016. Joel also gave an update on the Classis Mission Leader (CML) position. After talking with Moses Chung at Home Missions and Classis GLA leaders, it was decided not to fill the position at this time due to the possible structural changes in the potential merger of Home Missions and World Missions. After Synod 2016 more will be known about the future of the CML. If the position continues Home Missions has said that Classis GLA can select someone for the position in the future.

02232016: 14 Leadership Development Team (LDT)

02232016: 14.1 Julius Umawing shared that Katie Venhuizen, from Bethel CRC, Sun Valley has agreed to serve on the Leadership Development Team and currently there are 10 master trainers in GLA and by the end of 2016, Classis GLA hopes to have 20 master trainers from the Timothy Leadership Training.

02232016: 14.2 Camp Dunamis is now under the Leadership Development Team.

02232016: 14.3 Katie Venhuizen and Denise Tamminga shared the history of Camp Dumamis and how it has changed many young lives. The next Camp Dumanis is scheduled for June 19-24, 2016 and all churches are encouraged to send their Middle School age students. The discounted registration deadline is May 15, 2016. Registrations will be accepted after but at the full rate. Contact Denise Tamminga, dtamminga@rosewoodchurch.com for more information.

02232016: 15 Bethel CRC, Sun Valley Overture

02232016: 15:1 Katie Venhuizen shared the overture regarding Church Order Supplement, Article 8. The overture reads: *Recommend a change to Supplement, Article 8 of the Church Order to delete the words, “At the scheduled colloquium doctum” from point E5 and add a new point E7 which reads “A colloquium doctum shall be conducted by the Classis of the calling church. The colloquium doctum shall be waived for ministers being called from churches in ecclesiastical fellowship with the CRCNA.” Re-number the succeeding points in Supplement E.* Discussion was held and a motion to approve this overture and send it on for the Synod 2016 agenda was made. The motion was **defeated**. President Ford explained that Bethel CRC, Sun Valley can still send the overture to the Synodical Services office for the Synod 2016 agenda as coming from the church and not with classis approval.

02232016: 16 Closing

02232016: 16:1 Brent Wassink closed the meeting in prayer.

Next Classis meetings are:

May 3, 2016 – All Nations, Lake View Terrace

October 25, 2016 – Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley