

# Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

**Tuesday, October 25, 2016 8:30 AM**

Hosted by Trinity CRC, Artesia, CA

President: Jim Kuiper; Vice-President: Brent Wassink; Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

Synodical Deputies: John Greydanus, Cor Pool and Jelmer Groenwold

**10252016: 1 Opening and Devotions:** Pastor Erick Westra welcomed everyone and Lindsey Westra led the praise time. We were blessed by a beautiful solo based on Psalm 23, by Lindsey Westra and God's reassuring words:

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.

Rick Westra shared Hebrews 6:11 regarding God's promises for us and that we need be encouraged by His promises. Rick then closed our time of devotions in prayer.

**10252016:2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing:** The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Sixteen out of 25 Established Churches attended the meeting. Five of 14 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The President welcomed guests and the three Synodical Deputies: Rev. John Greydanus of Classis Red Mesa, Rev. Cor Pool of Classis CA South and Rev. Jelmer Groenwold of Classis Columbia. 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	Pat Cali	
Anaheim Latin American	Tomas Ivens		
Arcadia Hope International	<i>Absent</i>		
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	Gordon De Young	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Rich Hoeksema	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	Tom Byma	Annie Biggs
Bellflower, Bethany	Jim, Kuiper, Lon Wagner	Mike Whitten	Kathleen Dyer
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	<i>Absent</i>		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink, Bonny Mulder Behnia		
Buena Park, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Burbank, Bethany	Soo Min Bang		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	<i>Absent</i>		
Covina, The Bridge	SaeJung Chang		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	<i>Absent</i>		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Tae Kim		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	Bill Bull	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Tim Cordova Denise McCovey	
Los Angeles, Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Los Angeles, Tokamsa Mission	Ron Chu		
Ordot Chalan Pago, Guam, Faith Pres.	Tom Van Engen		
Monterey Park, Chinese		Sophie Tong	
Pomona, Indonesian Christian	<i>Absent</i>		
Santa Fe Springs, Together Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Julius Umawing,	
Westminster, Little Saigon			

<b>Emerging Church</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Parenting Church</b>
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	Charles Ho	Hope International
Santa Ana, Hispano Americana	Ernesto Mejia	Latin American
Santa Clarita Hope Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean
Westminster, NexGen	<i>Absent</i>	Little Saigon

10252016:2.1 Carl Kromminga, Bonny Mulder-Behnia and Zachary Vandenberg agreed to act as the Church Credential Communications Committee.

### **10252016: 3 Classical Leadership Team (CLT)**

10252016: 3.1 Brent Wassink shared that at the May 3, 2016 classis meeting, approval was given to continue working on the CCT Process Proposal. The motion from CLT: That Classis adopt the final CCT Process Proposal. This motion was **made** and **supported**.

10252016:3.3 Dan Brink read a letter from Jerry Kraesig, Pastor Anuenue Christian Church, Ewa Beach, HI. requesting that 2 motions be made at the October 25, 2016 classis meeting. Motion 1: Classis Greater Los Angeles approve Anuenue CRC be disbanded in accordance with Article 38.d of the CRC Church Order. This motion was **made**, **supported** and **approved**. Motion 2: Classis Greater Los Angeles approve that remaining tangible assets (such as tables, chairs, sound equipment, etc.) as required by our Articles of Incorporation, be disbursed by church representatives to local non-profit organizations. That the balance of the funds allocated directly to Anuenue CRC following the sale of the original CRC property on this island, which has been designated for outreach, be transferred to the oversight of Classis GLA to be used with similar intent-to fund future church planting efforts and/or for outreach and evangelism initiatives in local CRC churches. The current balance in that fund totals approximately \$37,000.00 This motion was **made**, **supported** and **approved**.

10252016: 3.4 10252016: 9.1 Dan Brink shared that the Indonesian Protestant Church informed Classis GLA Peer Relations pastor, Rev. Julius Umawing of their desire to disaffiliate with the CRC effective November 1, 2016. Rev. Jonas Muljo had previously informed Julius Umawing that he planned to retire for reasons of family health issues and his desire to complete his ThM program at International Theological Seminary. Jonas also indicated that he would like to be declared eligible for a call in the CRC. Rev. Dan Brink and Rev. Julius Umawing met and worked with Indonesian Protestant to see if a different ending could be worked out. It became very clear that the Indonesian Protestant Church wanted to return to being a non-denominational church as of November 1, 2016. Motion 1: That Classis GLA acquiesce to the separation of Rev. Jonas Muljo and the Indonesian Protestant Church of California, in accordance with Church Order Article 17-a. This motion was **supported** and **carried**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Motion 2: That classis declare Rev. Jonas Muljo to be eligible for call in the CRC. (This eligibility extends for two years, after which his eligibility may be renewed annually at the will of Classis.) The CLT will find a church to hold Rev. Jonas Muljo's credentials until a new calling church can be found. This motion was **supported** and **carried**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Motion 3: That Classis GLA acquiesce to the decision of the council of the Indonesian Protestant Church of California to disaffiliate from the CRC, effective November 1, 2016. This motion was **supported** and **carried**. Motion 4: That our Stated Clerk be directed to forward our decisions to the CRC Yearbook Office ASAP, so that these changes may be included in the upcoming Yearbook.

## **Stated Clerk Report**

The clerk presented the following list of communications for information, action and approval:

Clerk Communications March 16, 2016 to September 19, 2016

### **Received:**

1. From Mirtha Villafane, Save the Date for Fan the Flame info (Mar 23)
2. From David Kong, notice of Rev. Jung Jin Yoo's passing (Apr 4)
3. From David Koll, rec'd exam materials for Rev. Moon (Apr 18)
4. From CRC Communications, Ministry Share & Minister Pensions (July 15)
5. From Grace Christian Fellowship, Retirement Request for Elmer Tandayu (July 25)
6. From CRCNA Human Resources, CRCNA Position Opening (July 27)
7. From Tomas Ivens, Ethnos Launch Service (July 27)
8. From Pomona, Indonesian, Jonas Muljo Retirement Notice (July 29)
9. From Becky Vanderzee, World Renew Event Information (Aug 10)
10. From Tomas Ivens, Installation Service Information (Aug 12)
11. From Ron Chu, Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) Information (Aug 17)
12. From A.J. McCloud, Fan the Flame Event Information (Aug 18)
13. From Synodical Services Office, Board Nomination Information (Aug 19)
14. From Faith Formation Ministry, Planning Retreat Invitation (Aug 30)
15. From Dan Mouw, Stated Clerk, Classis Grandville, Info Dan Hwang (Sept 2)
16. From Yearbook Office, Yearbook Questionnaire Information (Sept 6)
17. From David Koll, Dir. Of Candidacy, Info for Dan Hwang Art 13c (Sept 7)
18. From CRC Communications, 2016 Quarterly Report (Sept 8)
19. From Eric Sarwar, California Convention 2016, (Sept 15)
20. From AJ McCloud, Fan the Flame Information, (Sept 15)
21. From Dee Recker, Stated Clerk Conference Information (Sept 19)

### **Sent:**

1. To GLA Churches, Save the Date for Fan the Flame, (Mar 23)
2. To Yearbook Office, notice of Rev. Jung Jin Yoo's passing (Apr 4)
3. To GLA Churches, Agenda for May 3 classis meeting (Apr 13)
4. To Yearbook, Denom Office, Calvin, Banner, Agenda for May 3 (Apr 13)
5. To Synodical Deps for May 3 mtg materials for Rev. Moon (Apr 18)
6. To GLA Churches, Minutes of May 3 mtg and Pulpit Supply List (May 29)
7. To Denom Office, Minutes of May 3 mtg (May 29)
8. To GLA Churches, Quarterly Ministry Report, Summer 2016 (June 7)
9. To GLA Churches, CRCNA Position Opening (July 27)
10. To GLA Churches, Ethnos Launch Service Information (July 28)
11. To GLA Churches, World Renew Event Information (Aug 10)
12. To GLA Churches, Tomas Ivens Installation Service Information (Aug 12)
13. To GLA Churches, Timothy Leadership Training Information (Aug 17)
14. To GLA Churches, Fan the Flame Event Information (Aug 18)
15. To Classical Leadership Team, Faith Formation Invitation (Sept 1)
16. To GLA Churches, 2016 Quarterly Report (Sept 8)
17. To GLA Churches, California Convention 2016 Information (Sept 15)
18. To GLA Churches, Fan the Flame Information (Sept 15)

**1. Item of Information:** Information received from Classis Grandville of Pastor Dan Hwang being approved for "loan service" in the LA area under Church Order Article 13-c. He remains a CRC pastor, and he remains then eligible for call in the CRC in the future.... Approval of Classis Greater

Los Angeles is required since they are the closest in proximity to the congregation where the loaning occurs. Motion: Classis GLA acknowledges receiving information regarding Pastor Dan Hwang being “on loan” under Article 13-c to a PCA church and remains eligible for a call in the CRC in the near future. Motion was **made**, **supported** and **approved**.

## CLASSIS TEAMS & TEAM MEMBERS

<b>Classis GLA Ministry Teams October 2016</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>			
<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	
Katie Venhuizen			
Lon Wagner			

<b>Classical Credentialing Team - CCT</b>			
<i><u>oversees the credentialing processes for examinations for ordination</u></i>			
Rick Westra	rwestra@mac.com	Leader	
Richard Jones			
Fernando Valencia			
Matt Ford			

<b>Classical Leadership Team - CLT</b>			
<i><u>Oversees the ministries of Classis and organizes Classis meetings</u></i>			
David Haberbush	dhaberbush@lbinsolvency.com	Leader	
Cindi Fairchild	cindif@crministrycenter.net	Clerk	
Julius Umawing		Staff	
Mirtha Villafane		Staff	
David Kong		Staff	
Brent Wassink			
Melvin Jackson			
Dan Brink			
Tae Young			
Peter Kang			

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

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

**10252016:4 Church Empowerment & Networking Team (CENT)**

10252016: 4.1 Joel Van Soelen shared information that the CEN team will be sending letters to each church encouraging them to submit proposals that seek to train members for outreach and evangelism.

10252016: 4.2 Joel explained that even if a parent church is not contributing, the church planter can still apply for CENT funds.

**10252016: 5 Leadership Development Team (LDT)**

10252016: 5:1 Julius Umawing explained the additional requested funds for the LDT budget are for Camp Dunamis and the reactivation of the Classis Student Fund. The approval of this motion was included in the Proposed Budget.

10252016:5.2 Motion: Classis GLA to approve the membership of Rev. Ron Chu (of Ttokamsa Mission Church) and Deacon Katie Venhuizen (of Bethel CRC), on the LDT. This motion was **supported** and **carried**.

### **10252016: 6 Coffee Break**

### **10252016: 7 Finance Team Report**

10252016:7.1 Goldene Byma shared the Treasurers' Report for January through June 2016. The motion to accept the January through June treasures report from the FT was **approved**.

10252016: 7.2 The FT presented the 2017 Proposed budget for Classis GLA totaling \$111,200. The FT recommended that the Ministry share per contributing member stay at \$57. This motion was **approved**.

### **10252016: 8 World Renew Presentation**

10252016: 8.1 Becky Vanderzee shared how World Renew can work with each church and use the churches strengths. Materials are being sent to each church. Please contact Becky at [becky.vanderzee@gmail.com](mailto:becky.vanderzee@gmail.com) if you don't receive information from World Renew.

### **10252016: 9 Church Credential Communication to Classis**

10252016: 9.2 Rev. Jae Kun Lee informed the Council of Bethany CRC, Bellflower of his intention to retire effective October 25, 2016 due to age. The Bethany CRC Council approved his retirement request on September 19, 2016. Motion: That Classis GLA approve the retirement of Rev. Jae Kun Lee effective October 25, 2016. This motion was **supported** and **carried**.

10252016: 9.3 Rev. Tae Kim has been installed as the Senior Pastor at All Nations CRC, Lake View Terrace, CA, filling the vacated position of Rev. Yoo.

10252016: 9.4 The Council of Grace Christian Fellowship, Cypress, CA. informed the Stated Clerk of Elmer Tandayu's intention to retire effective September 1, 2016 due to age. Motion: Classis GLA approve the retirement request of Elmer Tandayu effective September 1, 2016 due to age. This motion was **supported** and **carried**.

10252016: 9.5 Richard Jones' has informed classis that he has not been able to find a job and has requested that Classis GLA pay for his family's health insurance (denominational plan) for November and December 2016. Grounds for the motion: This is a special situation. He was released from the classis church he served faithfully for 8 years because the church could no longer pay him due to financial hardship. Motion: Classis GLA pay 2 months of health insurance (November and December 2016) for Richard Jones and family up to \$4900 total for two months of insurance. This motion was **supported** and **carried**.

10252016:9.6 Carl Kromminga, on behalf of the Church Credential Communication Team, read the letter from Bethany Korean CRC, Burbank to release Rev. HyukSoo Kwon from ministry with the Christian Reformed Church of North America in accord with Church Order Article 14-b on the grounds that Rev. Kwon has recently joined another denomination called Baeksuk Presbyterian as of August 31, 2016. Rev. HyukSoo Kwon was on loan as a church planter in Korea with the Jesus Hope Church since March 14, 2014. The motion was **made and supported**. Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

## **10252016: 10 Church Credentialing Team (CCT)**

10252016: 10.1 Rick Westra gave an overview of the available routes for credentialing.

10252016: 10.2 The motion was made to approve the job description for Ernesto Mejia as a Commissioned Pastor of Iglesia Hispanoamericana, Santa Ana, CA. The motion was **supported and approved**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**.

10252016: 10.3 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the doctrinal conversation for Ernesto Mejia on the grounds that he has met the requirements set by classis for ordination as a Commissioned Pastor. This motion was **supported and carried**.

10252016: 10.4 General Executive Session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Ernesto Mejia eligible for call as a Commissioned Pastor in Classis GLA serving Iglesia Hispanoamericana with Latin American, Anaheim as his calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Ernesto Mejia eligible was **supported** and **supported**. Rev. Micah Bruxvoort prayed for Ernesto Mejia.

10252016: 10.5 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Eric Sarwar and then hold an Executive session for discussion and voting. This motion was **supported and carried**.

10252016: 10.6 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Rev. Eric Sarwar on the grounds that he 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.

10252016: 10.7 Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Rev Eric Sarwar eligible for call as Minister of the Word with City Church, Artesia as his calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Eric Sarwar eligible was **made and supported**. The Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Rick Westra and Jim Kuiper prayed for Rev. Eric Sarwar.

10252016: 10.8 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Sang Jin. Julius Umawing conducted the work experience interview. A motion was made to approve this part of the exam. This motion was **supported and carried**. Julius Umawing then shared that he and Sam Lee had attended the church service and heard Sang Jin's sermon. Motion to approve the sermon review was **made, supported** and **carried**. Synodical Deputies **concurred** on the sermon evaluation review. Zach Vandenberg then conducted the theological interview. A motion was made to approve this part of the exam. This motion was **supported and carried**.

10252016: 10.9 General Executive Session was called. Discussion of the motion to declare Sang Jin eligible for call as Minister of the Word and Sacraments with Bethany CRC, Burbank as his calling church. A vote was held and the motion to declare Sang Jin eligible was **supported** and **supported**. Rev. Zach Vandenberg prayed for Sang Jin.

10252016: 10.10 Motion to approve the loaning of pastor Sang Him by Bethany CRC, Burbank to Woori Bit Church of Yeonggwang, South Korean, to serve as English Language Minister. The call is in accordance with Article 13-c, Supplement C. General Executive Session was held. This motion was **supported and carried**. Synodical Deputies **concurred**. Ron Chu will contact Bethany Korean CRC, Burbank to see if Sang Jin can be installed on Sunday, Oct 30 as he returns to Korea on Monday, Oct. 31.

## **10252016: 11 Lunch**

**10252016: 12 New Mission Agency Update – Tom Byma**

10252016: 12:1 Tom Byma shared that the official merger date for Home Missions and World Missions to the New Mission Agency will be July 1, 2017. Until then work will continue to be done as Home Missions or World Missions. There has been some confusion with recent mailings coming out as from Home Missions. Moses Chung, Director of Home Missions, will send out communication on the hiring of the new Regional Leader for the Western USA. (This is the newly expanded area including the West Coast Region.) The search has began for the new director of the New Mission Agency (new name to be approved at Synod 2017) and if you have a name(s) you would like to be considered, please contact Tom Byma at [tgbyma77@hotmail.com](mailto:tgbyma77@hotmail.com) or Cindi Fairchild at [cindif@CRMinistryCenter.net](mailto:cindif@CRMinistryCenter.net) by November 18, 2016.

**10252016: 13 L.A. Community Update**

Carl Kromminga shared an update from L.A. Community's Council that they have been worshipping together with sermons from A.J. McCloud and Gord Van Enk. Their Sunday School is studying the book of James and they have various community programs and groups who meet at L.A. Community.

**10252016:14** President Jim Kuiper closed the classis meeting in prayer.

**Next Classis meetings are:**

**February 28, 2017 – Bethel CRC, Sun Valley**

**May 2, 2017 – Fountain of Life, Fountain Valley**

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