

Classis Greater Los Angeles Meeting

www.classisgla.org

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Trinity CRC, Artesia, CA.

18718 Grayland Ave, Artesia, CA

Please print a copy of the full agenda and bring it to the meeting or download it to your computer and use your computer at the meeting.

(The Full agenda and the full financial report are available on the web at www.classisgla.org)

Also bring a signed copy of your Church Credential.

(blank pdf copy of Church credential is attached – print & fill out)

(emerging churches get your sponsor church to include you on their credentials or to sign yours)

8:00 – 8:25 AM Welcome reception

8:30 AM Worship & Business begins

Chairperson: Jim Kuiper Vice Chair: Brent Wassink Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

Synodical Deputies: Jelmer Groenewold, John Greydanus, Cor Pool

8:30 AM Opening welcome and devotions: Church Credentialing Team

8:50 AM Introductions and Credentials and signing of Covenant for Office Bearers

9:10 AM CLT and Clerk Reports pgs 4-7

9:30 AM CENT Report pg 9

9:40 AM LDT Report pg 10

10:00 AM Coffee Break

10:15 AM Finance Team 2017 Budget pg 12

10:25 AM World Renew Presentation - Becky VanderZee

10:30 AM Church Credential Communications to Classis

10:40 AM CCT Report and Exams pgs 12-14

10:50 AM Ernesto Mejia Exam

11:25 AM Eric Sarwar Exam

12:00 PM Lunch

12:30 PM Sang Jin Exam

1:45 PM New Mission Agency Update – Tom Byma

1:50 PM L.A. Community Update

2:00 PM Closing

GLA FELLOWSHIP COVENANT

Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit. Ephesians 4:3

Prepare God's people for works of service. Ephesians 4:11

Be above reproach. 1 Timothy 3:2

Train yourself to be godly. 1 Timothy 4:7

We are a family of diverse Christian Reformed congregations,
whose pastors, elders, and deacons covenant together
to encourage and empower each other
to more effectively lead our congregations in the mission of God
in the greater Los Angeles region—a gathering place of all nations.

We believe we are ... Better Together

THE GLA PURPOSE

is to develop healthy congregations that work together and encourage one another in making disciples for God's Kingdom in our region.

THE GLA WAY

1. Discerning together God's leading in our region
2. Developing healthy leaders for healthy congregations
3. Demonstrating CRC hospitality to all nations
4. Discipling new congregations effectively

GLA GOALS for 2014

1. Maintained and supported the Learning, Encouragement, Accountability, Dreaming (LEAD) teams to support the collegial networking of GLA pastors.
2. Provided three training opportunities for multi cultural leadership development
3. Communicated with the Churches the resources and activities for growth and involvement in GLA
4. Developed a strategic plan for GLA Church planting

HOW ARE WE DOING; HOW HAVE WE DONE?

1. **8:30 AM Opening devotions: Church Credentialing Team (CCT)**
2. **8:50 AM Introductions, Credentials, Covenanting, and convening a Church Credentials committee.**

Classis GLA Roster of Churches –

Established Churches	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen		
Anaheim Latin American		Tomas Ivens	
Arcadia Hope International	Faith Lim, Charles Ho, Sam Lee, Kathy Xu		
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen		
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra		
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg, Hairon Chow		
Bellflower, Bethany	Jim Kuiper, Lon Wagner		
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian			
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink, Bonny Mulder-Behnia, Fernando Valencia		
Burbank, Bethany	Soo Min Bang, HyukS Kwon, SunHo Bae		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	Ricardo Aragon		
Carson, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Covina, The Bridge	Saejung Paul Chang		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Jin So Yoo, Tae Young Kim, Pablo Lee Rich Kim, Ken Hong, Peter Kang, Christina Kang, Jim Seung, Joseph Hyun, John Lee, Chris Choe, David Jineung, Abraham Lee		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink		
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga		
Los Angeles, Community			
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Ken Choe, Charles Oh, BJ Jun, Charles Kim		
Ordot Chalan Pago, Guam, Faith Church	Tom Van Engen		
Monterey Park, Chinese			
Pomona, Indonesian	Jonas Muljo		
Santa Fe Springs Together Comm.	Sung Chil Choi		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort, Julius Umawing		
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		

Emerging Churches	Pastor	Parenting Church
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	Maged Fayez	Anaheim CRC
Artesia City Church		Bethany Bellflower
Bellflower, Ethnos Community	Tomas Ivens	Anaheim, Latin American
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	Jae Kun Lee - O	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	Andrew Choh - CP	Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	Jerry Kraesig - CP	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	Fatu Auau - CP	FoL Fountain Valley
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	Melvin Jackson - O	L. A. Community
Paramount, Centro Familiar Cristiano		Latin American
Riverside, Inland Jubilee	James Lee-O	Santa Fe Springs, Together
Santa Ana, Hispano Americana	Ernesto Mejias	Latin American
Santa Clarita Community Church	David Kong - O	Bethany Korean
Westminster, Little Saigon Nexgen	Duong Le	Westminster, Little Saigon
<i>CP = Commissioned Pastor O= Minister of the Word</i>		

3. 9:10 AM Classical Leadership Team (CLT) and Clerk Reports

Classical Leadership Team (CLT) Report

Our purpose is act on behalf of Classis between meetings, organize the Classis meetings, facilitate and coordinate the ministry of the Classical teams, and adjudicate issues that arise among the churches of Classis. The CLT serves as the administrative arm of Classis and serves as an access to Synod.

Team members: David Haberbush (leader); Mirtha Villafañe (Staff); Melvin Jackson; Dan Brink, Tae Kim, Cindi Fairchild (Clerk), Brent Wassink; Peter Kang, Julius Umawing (Staff) and David Kong (Staff)

1. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Home Missions and World Missions are well into the transition process and are currently looking for a new Regional Leader (RL) at full time or 2 part time RL's for the Western US. The West Coast Region has been expanded to now include the following classes: PNW, Yellowstone, Columbia, Central CA, CA South, Hanmi, Ko-Am, GLA, Arizona, Rocky Mountain and Red Mesa. Red Mesa will have their own leader. The new RL(s) will form a team from local leaders. Home Missions funding for the Classis Mission Leaders (CML's) ended on August 31, 2016. The former CML's have decided to continue their work during this interim time of finding a new RL and each classis will support their CML at their discretion. Classis GLA has not had a CML since Sid Sybenga retired approx. a year ago.

Proposed formalization and changes to Classis Credentialing Team (CCT) Examination Process is included with this report

Classis Stated Clerk received an Invitation to Join Faith Formation Ministries on a Youth Ministry Initiative from Faith Formation Ministries. The CRCNA Board of Trustees has now mandated us (Faith Formation Ministries) to begin developing this project in American classes as well. Classis GLA has been invited to enter into conversation about supporting congregational youth ministry in your classis at a retreat in Chicago, April 19-21, 2017. Between now and April 2017 they are suggesting the following:

- 1 That the Classis Ministry Team (or similar body) reflect on this invitation.
- 2 As necessary, CLT has designated David Haberbush to communicate with Dr. Syd Hielema of Faith Nation Ministries about this project, and to ask questions to become as knowledgeable as possible.
- 3 That, if these first two steps proceed favorably, the invitation will be discussed at the Fall 2016 classis meeting.
- 4 If classis chooses to participate it will send 1-2 representatives to the 48 hr planning retreat, Faith Formation Ministries is asking each classis to cover the following: The cost of the Retreat Center, including meals, is \$230 per person, so each classis has been asked to cover \$115 of the cost. For travel, each classis is asked to cover: ½ the cost of the flight OR ½ the mileage for those driving less than 250 miles one way OR ½ the cost of car rental and fuel for those driving more than 250 miles one way.

2. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL BY CLASSIS

Motion from CLT (in consultation with Rick Westra of CCT): that Classis adopt the CCT Process Proposal.

Classis Credentialing Team (CCT) Process—PROPOSAL

Problems:

1. Our process is not clear and clean puts significant responsibility on Classis leaders.
2. Some churches asking for exams do not participate in Classis.
3. Our current practice uses much time from ministry leaders (both in preparation and for exams at meetings)

Principles:

1. Maximum responsibility on mother church/individual
2. Participate to play. Church participation in Classis required for processing.
3. Classis priority is to preserve maximum time/energy of leaders for their local church.

Practices:

1. Documents and completion
 - a. Consolidate documents required (highlighting that having a visa is non-negotiable), create a clear completion guide including contact information for any advice needed, and put this material on the Classis website.
 - b. Designate the Classis Clerk to act as the registrar for this process.
 - c. Make clear that the responsibility and impetus for completing documents and pursuing the process is entirely the candidate's/mother church's, and require all documents to be completed before engagement by CCT and with a candidate.
2. Mother church involvement to put a person in the ordination process
 - a. The mother church must have, on average, at least 1 delegate at 2 out of the previous 3 Classis meetings in the past 3 years, beginning fall 2016.
 - b. The mother church must have fulfilled its ministry share obligations in the previous year to request an exam, beginning calendar year 2017.
 - c. The mother church, in consultation with the CCT, must find a suitable mentor for the person.
3. Written tests
 - a. Have written tests (take home, no time limit) be the primary component of the 3 part exam: Bible knowledge, theology, pastoral care and CRC practice. Tests may be done in whatever language the test taker desires.
 - b. Have test answers distributed with Classis agenda.
 - c. Hire a proctor who is not personally connected to the candidate to grade written exams, monitor translation of exams and answers, and to be available by phone to suggest additional resources or provide other information when requested by the candidate.
4. Documents
 - a. All documents and tests to be distributed to Classis delegates must be in the hands of the stated clerk a month prior to meeting at which exam is to take place.
 - b. Translation will be provided when necessary.

5. Classis exam rate and priority (if not able to process exams requested during its 3 yearly meetings)

- a. Ordinarily, Classis will have a maximum of two exams per meeting, 6 per year
- b. If there are more exams than exams slots, priority will be as follows:
 - 1) churches without a pastor
 - 2) churches who have not processed other candidates most recently

6. If a person is seeking ordination in order to lead a group into the CRC as an established church, such a church must have at least 45 active confessing members (Church Order Supplement, Article 38-d), a council composed of at least 2 elders and 2 deacons, be able to show that its pastor has sufficient income to function in his/her role, and understand and embrace both the privileges and responsibilities of being part of the CRCNA and Classis GLA.

Stated Clerk Report

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. Motion to approve: 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.

CLASSIS TEAMS & TEAM MEMBERS

Classis GLA Ministry Teams May 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			
<u><i>Develops and oversees training, retreats, and scholarships for leaders</i></u>			
Julius Umawing	suiluj64@yahoo.com	Staff Leader	
Carl Kromminga	newcitylb@juno.com	Secretary	
Mirtha Villafane		staff	
Katie Venhuizen			
Lon Wagner			

Race Relations Team - RRT		
<u><i>promotes intercultural appreciation, cooperation, and multicultural values</i></u>		
Frank DeHaan		
Ruth Palma		
Fatu Auau		

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

Richard Jones

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

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

Finance Team FT			
<i>Develops and oversees the budget of Classis</i>			
Goldene Byma	classistreasurer@hotmail.com	Treasurer	
Don Mulder		Secretary	
Jim Zoetewey		Leader	
Rich Hoeksema			

4. **9:30AM Church Empowerment & Networking Team (CENT)**

To assist classical churches in doing evangelism/mission outreach and in planting churches; and to assist non CRC churches who desire to affiliate with the CRC.

Team members: Joel Van Soelen (leader), Chris Choe, Tomas Ivens, David Kong (staff), AJ McCloud, Andrew Nishimoto, Rachel Van Dyk (recorder), Mirtha Villafañe (staff)

I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. CENT Fund Applications for 2016 are due before December 1, 2016.
2. The CENT Fund Team encourages churches to submit proposals that seek to train members for outreach and evangelism.
3. Churches that received funding in 2016 (Bridge of Hope Outreach, Bethany Bellflower, Hope International Awana and Christmas Outreach, and Rosewood Bellflower) from the CENT Fund have evaluation reports due by November 30 to Rachel Van Dyk (rvandyk@verizon.net). If the reports are not submitted they cannot receive a grant for 2017.
4. Received an update from Church Planters Tomas Ivens, Duong Le, Sam Lee, and Ernesto Mejias at our August meeting. Join us in praying for the Church Planters of GLA. Pray that as a Classis we would give them the support and encouragement they need to thrive. Tomas Ivens will give an update during the Classis meeting.
5. Staff (David Kong, Julius Umawing, and Mirtha Villafane along with Ron Chu) are meeting on a monthly basis.
6. CENT went through proposed budget and discerned that we should re-allocate \$4,100 that is set aside for Youth Evangelism and use it for “Church Planter Connection”. We would like to encourage our Church Planters by hosting retreats and meals that bring them and their families together to share, rest, and be refreshed. Church Planters have expressed a desire for this.
7. A.J. McCloud has decided to step down from CENT due to increased responsibilities at church and work. His service to CENT is deeply appreciated. He will be missed.
8. Our next meeting is December 13, 2016. If you are interested in joining the team or just want to visit a meeting, you are welcome.

5. 9:40AM Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

Our purpose is to help all Classis GLA churches become healthy ministries by identifying, training, and supporting leaders for effective service.

Team members: Mirtha Villafañe (staff) (Hispanic Ministry Developer); Carl Kromminga (Evangelist Training Program, Project Timothy); Lon Wagner (Youth Development); Ron Chu (Timothy Leadership Training); Katie Venhuizen (Camp Dunamis); Julius Umawing, leader (staff) (Peer Relations, LEAD teams, SEAPI churches)

1. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL BY CLASSIS

- a. Approve the LDT 2017 budget
- b. Approve the membership of Rev. Ron Chu (of Ttokamsa Mission Church) and Deacon Katie Venhuizen (of Bethel CRC), on the LDT.

2. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- a. The LDT approved the reactivation of the Classis Student Fund and put in the amount of \$5,000 to help support classis GLA members become ministers of the Word. LDT also increased the financial support to Camp Dunamis 2017. Kindly see proposed 2017 budget.
- b. There were 125 students at Camp Dunamis (June 19-24) and 115 students filled out commitment cards.
- c. Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) is scheduled on November 1-4, 2016 at Ttokamsa Mission Church, 1440 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Feel free to contact Rev. Ron Chu (pastorron@gmail.com) for more information.
- d. The Scholarship Fund helps pay half the registration or tuition costs for leadership training events (like the TLT training in Ttokamsa) for church leaders. Applications are available at www.classisgla.org and are submitted to Bill Postma.
- e. Evangelist Training Program (ETP): Rev. Al Breems leads a three year leadership training program that qualifies for commissioned pastor ordination in the CRC. New students can join anytime. Contact Al at Breems1@juno.com. Individual modules are open to everyone.
- f. Classis GLA has two SPANISH ministry leader training sites offering certificates and degrees through MINTS. One site is Sun Valley with Rev. Tomas Ivens as instructor (5 students are enrolled) and the other is in Anaheim with Rev. Mirtha Villafane as instructor (with 8 students). Each year five modules are offered. Contact Rev. Villafane (mvillafane21@yahoo.com) for any questions.
- g. LDT Youth Fund extended support to the South California Young Calvinist League retreat scheduled in March 2017.

- h. Seven (7) GLA pastors received financial assistance to attend the annual retreat of the CRC South East Asia and Pacific Island pastors (known as SEAPI) in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 12-14, 2016. The Cambodian CRC in Salt Lake City generously served as host. Classis GLA pastor, Rev. Jonas Muljo currently serves SEAPI as president.
- i. LDT hosted a gathering of youth ministry leaders on August 20, 2016 at Ttokamsa Mission Church. The main purpose was to encourage these leaders and listen to their stories.
- j. The LDT is reviewing its 2016 goals and will put together the goals for 2017 during its January 2017 meeting. We definitely appreciate all your prayers!
- k. LDT Goals for 2016 . ***By the October 2016 Classis Meeting the LDT will have***
 1. Organized and hosted a two day preaching seminar in February to which all the GLA and Classis California South pastors will be invited.
 2. The LDT will have hosted the May Classis meeting and showcased the LDT programs.
 3. Encouraged and empowered with financial support, the individual churches of Classis GLA and/or church partnerships; to organize, host and invite the Churches of Classis GLA to local training seminars, workshops and other leadership development events that meet the local church's needs. Examples: Small group leader training, elder/deacon training, Safe church policy development and annual staff safe church trainings, evangelism and outreach, youth leader training, diversity training or worship leading. These trainings were promoted at each of the GLA Classis meetings, through emails and the GLA monthly Newsletter, and visits by the Classis Mission Leader.
 4. **A.** Communicated to all the GLA churches the nature, value, opportunities, and requirements of becoming a "master trainer" of the Timothy Leadership Training modules at our February Classis meeting. **B.** Organized, promoted and invited all the leaders in Classis GLA and California South to the LA based Timothy Leadership Training Institutes to be held in May/ October hosted by Ttokamsa Mission Church in partnership with the TLTI staff through TLTI generated promotion materials, Classis newsletters, emails, and Classis meeting announcements.
 5. Promoted the resources and opportunities of the ministries under the auspices of the LDT through Classis agendas, mass emails to the pastors, LEAD teams, Classis Newsletters, and the classisgla.org website. (ETP, MINTS, Student Fund, Project Timothy, Scholarship Fund, Assessment Assistance Fund, LEAD teams, Timothy Leadership Training, and Camp Dunamis)
 6. Searched and recruited new members for the LDT.
 7. Participated and supported the SEAPI (South East Asia Pacific Island) churches conference and it's GLA pastors.

6. 10:00AM Coffee Break

7. 10:15AM Finance Team 2017 Budget

Team members: Jim Zoetewey (Chair), Rich Hoeksema, Don Mulder and Goldene Byma

1. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

The Finance Team is looking for a new member.

2. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL BY CLASSIS

Approval of the Treasurers Report for January – June 2016

Approval of the Proposed Budget for 2017

8. 10:25AM World Renew Presentation – Becky VanderZee

9. 10:30AM Church Credential Communication to Classis

10. 10:40AM Church Credentialing Team (CCT) Report and Exams

Team: Rick Westra, Richard Jones, Matt Ford, Fernando Valencia

1. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL OF CLASSIS

A. To approve the job description for Ernesto Mejia as a Commissioned Pastor at Iglesia Hispánicaamericana under Latin American CRC

Grounds: The description meets the requirements stated in the Supplement Article 23a.

a. the functions and responsibilities described are ministerial in nature

b. the lines of accountability and supervision are described

c. it is noted that preaching and administering the sacraments are included

B. To proceed with the doctrinal conversation for Ernesto Mejia

Grounds: He has met the requirements set by classis for ordination as a Commissioned Pastor.

C. To proceed with the colloquium doctum for the Rev. Eric Sarwar

Grounds: Permission has been granted by the Synodical Ministerial Candidacy Committee.

D. To proceed with the colloquium doctum for candidate Sang Jin

Grounds: He has been declared eligible for call by Synod and has been extended a call by Bethany Burbank. Examination is necessary before he is ordained for the first time.

Provided the above exams are completed successfully, the following motions may be made

E. To declare Ernesto Mejia eligible for call as a Commissioned Pastor in Classis GLA serving as lead pastor of Iglesia Hispánicaamericana of Santa Ana, with Latin American CRC as his calling church.

F. To declare the Rev. Eric Sarwar eligible for call as Minister of the Word and Sacraments with Bethany CRC, Bellflower as his calling church.

G. To declare candidate Sang Jin eligible for call as Minister of the Word and Sacraments with Bethany CRC, Burbank as his calling church.

H. To approve the loaning of Pastor Sang Jin by Bethany CRC, Burbank to Woori Bit Church of Yeonggwang, South Korea, to serve as English Language Minister.

Grounds: The call is in accord with Article 13 C, supplement C: his duties as minister are spiritual in character and directly related to the ministerial calling and do not conflict with his commitment to the faith and practice of the CRC.

For General Review of Credentialing Matters

There are three main routes into ordained pastoral ministry in the CRC.

Article 6 – Seminary Route

This route is for a (Calvin) Seminary graduate who desires to serve in the CRC.

The individual applies for candidacy while still at seminary, and is interviewed by representatives of the candidacy committee and then approved by synod. The candidate is extended a provisional call by a CRC congregation, but can only accept the call after sustaining the colloquium doctum before classis and synodical deputies.

Students currently enrolled in other seminaries, but who want to serve in the CRC should be strongly encouraged to contact the Director of Candidacy a.s.a.p. This will enable the student to take the necessary courses for CRC ordination as part of his M.Div. degree. Any delay will mean additional coursework on top of the M.Div. degree.

Students who have graduated with an M.Div. from a seminary besides Calvin, and are not yet ordained, must complete either, a semester residency at Calvin, or a two year online program. When completed, these individuals will be approved by synod and eligible for call.

Article 8 – Ministers from other Denominations

This route is for the individual who is *already* ordained by a previous group or denomination, **and** has an organized CRC congregation willing to extend a call to him/her.

Without a call, there is no ordination.

These individuals must apply, and work through a Learning Covenant, wherein they familiarize themselves with CRC doctrine, history, and polity. This process is overseen by the Candidacy Committee with the help of classis. When the mentoring process is complete, the minister is then examined by classis, and then declared eligible for call. The minister then accepts the call, and is ordained in a service at the local church.

There are generally three types of situations in this group.

- a. An organized CRC desires to extend a call to a non-CRC minister to serve their immediate congregation, or serve in some other ministry.
- b. A minister involved in church planting, has a small gathering of people and wishes to affiliate with the CRC. This individual will need a call from an organized CRC.
Once ordained, this minister lead his church towards organized status in the CRC.
- c. A minister with his own established church desires to bring himself and his congregation into the CRC. The minister must go through the Article 8 process, and the congregation must be educated about what it means to belong to the CRC.

The congregation must then take an official vote to join the CRC. Once they have voted to join, they are now an organized church, and then can extend a call to the minister.

One further note. CRC congregations pledge to make a good faith effort to look for ministers who are already ordained in the CRC. Before looking for ministers outside of the CRC, a congregation must demonstrate or give substantial reasons as to why they need to call someone outside the CRC. See the *Article 8 supplement, letter E., point 4.*

Article 23 – Commissioned Pastor

This route is for those who feel called to ministry and desire to be ordained, but do not have formal theological training, i.e. an M.Div. degree. These leaders are usually “home grown” and develop within the context of their own local church. Such individuals may serve in a variety of roles, from Pastor of Outreach, to Worship Pastor, to Church Planter, and in some unique cases as Lead Pastor.

For these individuals the path to ordination is initiated by an organized CRC congregation, and overseen by classis, as opposed to the Denominational Candidacy Committee.

This path involves a custom-designed training plan, or Learning Covenant, developed by the individual and mentor, in consultation with classis leaders.

In the past, Classis GLA has determined that participation in the Evangelist Training Program, led by the Rev. Al Breems, satisfies most of the Learning Covenant requirements. For a while, Classis GLA had it's own training structure, LOGOS, to meet this need, but the program was discontinued due to lack of participation. Today, participation in Timothy Leadership Training modules can comprise a certain amount of the Learning Covenant.

When the Learning Covenant is completed, the individual will be examined by classis and declared eligible for call. The individual then accepts the call from the local organized CRC congregation.

- 11. 10:50AM Exam – Ernesto Mejia**
- 12. 11:25AM Exam – Eric Sarwar**
- 13. 12:00PM Lunch**
- 14. 12:30PM Exam – Sang Jin**
- 15. 1:45PM New Mission Agency Update – Tom Byma**
- 16. 1:50PM L.A. Community Update**
- 17. 2:00PM Closing**

Next Classis Meeting: Feb 28, 2017 Location TBD