

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2014 8:30AM

Hosted by the Bethel CRC, Sun Valley, CA

President: Bonny Mulder-Behnia Vice-President: Joel Van Soelen Clerk: Cindi Fairchild

102814: 1 Opening and Devotions. The Praise Team from Bethel CRC led the group in the singing of two songs and then Sid Sybenga led the group in Lectio Divina using Eph. 4:1-6. Participants were asked to form groups of 4 ethnically diverse groups for a time of sharing and prayer with each other. The Praise Team then led the group in a closing song.

102814: 2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing President Mulder-Behnia invited the two first time delegates to sign the Covenant of Office Bearers in the CRCNA. The Clerk read the names off of the credentialing sheets of the credentialed delegates and noted 15 of the possible 26 Established churches and two of the 13 Emerging churches present as follows:

Established Churches	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen,	Pat Cali	Dick Van Eck Jr.
Anaheim Latin American	Absent		
Arcadia Hope International	Sid Sybenga, Myo Sook Cho, Charles Ho	Sam Lee	
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	Rich Boersma	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Randy Van Essen	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg	Joel Ver Velde	
Bellflower, Bethany	Lon Wagner	Mike Whitten	
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	Absent		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Bonny Mulder-Behnia	Fernando Valencia	
Burbank, Bethany	Absent		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	Absent		
Buena Park, Grace Christian Fellowship	Absent		
Covina, The Bridge	Absent		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Absent		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Chris Choe		
Long Beach	Brent Wassink		David Haberbush
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga		
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones		
Los Angeles, Harvest Church of	Absent		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Absent		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	Tom Van Engen	Kim Volsteadt	
Monterey Park, Chinese		Sophie Tong	
Pomona, Indonesian Christian	Absent with notice		
Santa Fe Springs Together Community	Absent		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Julius Umawing	Jim Hooyenga
Westminster, Little Saigon (24)	Matthew Le		

<u>Emerging Churches</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Parenting Church</u>
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	Absent	Anaheim CRC
Artesia City Church	Absent	Bethany Bellflower
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	Absent	Bethany, Bellflower

Bellflower New Dawn	Absent	First Bellflower
Bellflower, The Church on "X Street"	Absent	New City, Long Beach
La Crescenta, God's Dream Center	Tim Kwon	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	Absent	Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	Absent	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	Absent	FoL Fountain Valley
LA, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	Absent	L. A. Community
Paramount, Cento Familiar	Absent	Latin American
Riverside, Inland Jubilee	Absent	Santa Fe Springs, Together
Santa Ana, Hispano Americana	Absent	Latin American
Santa Clarita Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean
<i>CP = Commissioned Pastor O= Minister of the Word</i>		

102814:2 The President appointed Fernando Valencia, Tom Van Engen and Micah Bruxvoort to serve as the Classical Credentialing Committee.

102814: 3 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) Report

102814: 3.1 A motion was made to approve changing the February 24, 2015 classis meeting to February 26, 2015 in conjunction with the TogetherLA conference. We will meet for two hours prior to the conference to elect synodical delegates and deal with pressing concerns. The motion was **supported** and **passed**.

102814:3.2 A motion was made to approve using up to \$5,500 for scholarships to attend the rest of the TogetherLA Conference on Feb 26-28, 2015. The motion was **supported** and **passed**. The cost per person is \$140 approximately and one day or three day registration is available. Pastors will receive a 50% discount online and 20% for additional attendees.

102814:3.3 Clerk Report for May 10 – October 1, 2014

102814:3.3 The clerk presented the following list of communications for information, action and approval:

Received:

1. From, Dee Recker, Highlights of the Board of Trustees of the CRCNA May meeting. (May 10)
2. From Shashi DeHaan that she is the new Banner correspondent for the Arizona/Greater Los Angeles/Red Mesa area. (May 19)
3. From Yearbook Office a request for confirmation of ordination date for Jonas Muljo. (June 2)
4. From Yearbook Office a request for church information for Indonesian Protestant Church in Pomona. (June 2)
5. From Rolf Bouma a request to schedule a classical listening session on Providing Pastoral Guidance on Same Sex Marriage, in order to carry out a mandate from Synod sometime between Sept 2014 and May 2015. (June 10)
6. From Karla Soule (Back to God Hour) a request to share a 15 min video celebrating 75 yrs of Back to God at a classis meeting. (June 9)
7. From Dave VanderMeulen of schedule for Sierra Leadership Network and a Classis Contracta on July 1, 2014. (June 23)
8. From CRC Communications the Summer Quarterly Ministry Report. (June 23)
9. From Jill Stark (Director of Candidacy Office) communication on the list of candidates on the denominational web site and their status. Also information on the Synod of 2013 approval of

- the need for a “denominationally approved learning plan” for all persons approved for Commissioned Pastor positions that are senior or solo in a local church. (July 8)
10. From David Koll (Director of Candidacy Office) a “template” document for beginning dialogue for the “denominationally approved learning plan.” (July 9)
 11. From Rich Braaksma stating that he is aware of the “Delayed Status”. (July 10)
 12. From CRC Communications Updated Ecclesiastical Forms and Letters of Call. (July 21)
 13. From CRC Communications the Annual Financial and Administrative Resource Update (July 15)
 14. From Kim DeVries (Office of Synodical Services) a denominational Board Membership and Meeting Schedule. (July 24)
 15. From Will Verhoef information on Global Worship at Ttokamsa Church on August 15, 2014. (August 13)
 16. From Dee Recker various Stated Clerk information forms to be completed and returned and notice of Board vacancies for Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary.(August 13)
 17. From Dee Recker a poll on if and if so, how each classis “pays” elders to attend Synod. (August 14)
 18. From CRC Communications the 2014 Fall Ministry Report for Classes and Councils. (August 26)
 19. From Will Verhoef, invitation to the 100th Anniversary for L.A. Community on Sept 20 and 21, 2014. (September 4)
 20. From Will Verhoef the invitation to All Nations Celebration on Oct 5, 2014 at Artesia First, Artesia, CA. (September 4)
 21. From Staci DeVries about new Stated Clerk for Classis Iakota. (September 18)
 22. From Sid Sybenga, Timothy Leadership Training information for October 20-23 at All Nations Church in Lake View Terrace, CA. (September 23)
 23. From Richard Jones, time change for the All Nations Heritage Celebration and choir practice times. (September 24)
 24. From Sid Sybenga, All Nations Heritage Celebration information for Sunday, October 5, 2014 at Artesia First CRC. (September 25)
 25. From Sid Sybenga, GLOCAL CHURCH SUMMIT Conference information at Ttokamsa Church on November 17-19, 2014. (September 29)
 26. From Sid Sybenga, early bird tuition ending soon notice for Timothy Leadership Training event on Oct 20-23. (September 30)
 27. From Sid Sybenga the GLA September 2014 Newsletter. (September 30, 2014)

Sent:

1. Sent thank you card to Alison Jones for her work with the CENT team. (May 8)
2. Sent the minutes from the May 6, 2014 classis meeting to all GLA churches, Dee Recker, Kathy Smith and Karen Koster. (May 30)
3. Sent request to Jonas Muljo the Church Information Form to be completed and returned for Pomona, Indonesian Church. (June 2)
4. Sent to Jonas Muljo a request for bulletin announcement of his Ordination into the CRC. (June 2)
5. Sent to Dee Recker how Classis GLA financially handles elders attending Synod poll. (August 14)
6. Sent to Rolf Bouma(Committee to Provide Pastoral Guidance on Same Sex Marriage) what month worked best for their committee to hold a “listening session” in the GLA area. (June 12)
7. Sent to Dee Recker the Ecclesiastical Credential for Jonas Muljo to Indonesian Protestant Church. (June 12)
8. Sent to Dee Recker the confirmation of ordination for Jonas Muljo. (June 12)

9. Sent to Karla Soule (Back to God Hour) confirmation that the 15 min video could be shown at the October 28, 2014 classis meeting. (June 12)
10. Sent to Bill Postma a request to post the Summer Quarterly Ministry Report on the GLA website. (June 25)
11. Sent to Bill Postma the Annual Financial and Administrative Resource to be put on GLA website. (July 15)
12. Sent to Rich Braaksma a notice that he has a “Delayed Status” with the denomination. (July 8)
13. Sent to James Black, a letter of employment. (July 8)
14. Sent email to Jill Stark (Director of Candidacy Office) requesting more information on how the “denominationally approved learning plan” will be worked on and by whom. (July 8)
15. Sent to all GLA churches the invite to join the Barnabas Group LA in collaboration with City Net and Bedrock Creek in Long Beach on August 19. (July 22)
16. Sent to Karen Koster (Synodical Services) corrections for list of Solo Pastors (ordained and commissioned) for Classis GLA. (August 14)
17. Sent to GLA Elders and Officers information of vacancies on the Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary that need nominations. (August 21)
18. Sent to all GLA churches, Jonas Muljo (GLA website) and Shashi DeHaan (Banner correspondent) information on the Timothy Leadership Training at All Nations Church, Lakeview Terrace on Oct 20-23, 2014. (August 26)
19. Sent to all GLA church elders and officers the 2014 Fall Ministry Report. (August 26)
20. Sent to Jonas Muljo the Fan the Flame information for Sept 13, 2014 to be put on the GLA website. (August 26)
21. Sent to Jonas Muljo the Timothy Leadership Training information to be put on the GLA website. (Sept 2)
22. Sent to Yearbook Office CRC the contact information for Hispano Americana, Santa Ana, CA. (October 1)
23. Sent to Jonas Muljo the time change announcement for the All Nations Heritage Celebration on Oct 5, 2014 at Artesia First. (October 2)
24. Sent to all GLA pastors the time change announcement for the All Nations Heritage Celebration on October 5, 2014 at Artesia First. (October 2)

102814: 3.4 A motion was made to accept and approve the Stated Clerks report. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:3.5 A motion was made to nominate Tom Byma (First Bellflower CRC) for the Calvin College Board and Julius Umawing for the Calvin Seminary Board. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:4 Classical Credentialing Team (CCT) Report

102814:4.1 Rick Westra introduced three people who are in the beginning stages of becoming Commissioned Pastors under Church Order Article 23. A handout was given with their background information as well as three others who were not at the classis meeting. The following people are beginning their journey toward ordination as a Commissioned Pastor under Church Order Article 23:

Glenn Nakata – Glenn Nakata was born and raised in Santa Monica, California. His father was a Buddhist, his mother was a Christian, but it was through the influence of his wife Jaclyn that he first came to trust in Christ. He has worked most of this life as a truck driver but went to night school to get his B.A. from the Masters College. For the past several years he has been especially involved in children’s ministry. He is a member at Hope International Church of Arcadia and they are supporting him on his path to be ordained as a Children’s Ministry Pastor.

Brenda Sansom-Moorey – Brenda grew up in Seoul, Korea, the daughter of United Methodist missionaries. Upheaval during her college years led her to a deepened relationship with the Lord. She received her Ph.D. in modern Chinese history from the University of Wisconsin. Her struggle with and subsequent healing from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome has helped her see the role of healing prayer, and the importance of pastoral care to those who suffer. She speaks Chinese and has ministered to Chinese immigrants by leading Alpha, small groups and prayer ministry. She is a member at Hope International Church of Arcadia and they are endorsing her to be ordained as Pastor of Congregational Life. She is currently working toward her M.A. in Theology at Fuller Seminary.

Gulam Ghiancy –Gulam Ghiancy is originally from Afghanistan. He grew up in a devout Muslim family and was active in the mosque from the age of 7. He finished high school in Kabul, completed military service, and then came to the U.S. to study hydraulic engineering. Through the influence of his advisor he became a Christian. For the past several years he has owned and operated an alarm company and engaged in ministry to fellow Afghani’s and other Farsi speakers. By God’s providence he connected with an elder at All Nations Church and they have been working with him as he leads the Afghan Christian Fellowship Church of Los Angeles. The church meets in Winnetka, and he lives in Lancaster. All Nations is his calling church.

Gloria Hsieh – Gloria Hsieh grew up in Taiwan in a Buddhist home. She came to know the Lord during her college years as she was introduced to the Bible through a campus ministry. Upon reading Genesis 1:1 great peace came upon her heart. She later moved to Argentina with her family and while there studied at the Latin-American Seminary of the Presbyterian Church. Since moving to the U.S. she has completed her M.Div. at the International Theological Seminary here in L.A. Gloria is serving as pastor at the Monterey Park Chinese Church and they are her calling church.

Soon Hee Park – Soon Hee grew up in South Korea in a little country town and was raised by faithful Christian parents. She was able to go to college and taught in an elementary school. Upon coming to the U.S. Soon Hee felt burdened to reach the homeless. As a result she founded Christ Blessing Mission and every week her church members work to serve and feed 200-250 homeless individuals. Soon Hee comes from the Pentecostal Assemblies of God of Korea.

Richard Gibson – Richard Gibson grew up in Southern California and went to Sunny Hills High School. He grew up in a non-Christian home, and has served in the National Guard as a combat medic. He was led to the Lord through the ministry of Pastor Soon Hee Park and received further training through the Assemblies of God of Korea. For the past 16 years he has served with the Christ Blessing mission as Associate Pastor. He helps lead Bible studies, leads corporate worship, teaches some Korean and Greek, as well as help with the ministry to the homeless.

102814: 4.2 A motion was made to accept the introduction of Glenn Nakata, Brenda Sansom-Moorey and Gloria Hsieh. The motion was supported and approved.

102814: 4.3 Race Relations Team (RRT) Report

102814:4.3 Richard Jones encouraged churches to support sending middle school students to Camp Dunamis and spoke of the need to continue using pulpit exchanges within Classis Greater Los Angeles. The President thanked Richard Jones for his service on the Race Relations Team, since he retired from the RRT.

102814:5 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) Report

102814:5.1 A motion was made to approve, as a pilot project in partnership with the Los Angeles Church Planting Movement, one new church plant with a start date of late 2014 or 2015 (that is, as soon as possible). The motion was **supported** and **passed** with the following understandings:

1. A network of 3 to 5 churches from classis will be invited to form the management and support team for this pilot project, with each of the network churches contributing a minimum of \$5,000 annually and a combined total of not less than \$45,000 annually for 3 years.
2. Supporting churches of classis may be asked to pray for this church plant and to consider taking one or more offerings to support the movement. The experiences of this pilot project will be shared at classis meetings and learnings gathered, so that, if successful, it can be replicated by other partners in the future.
3. Supporting churches may apply for \$20,000 per year for 3 years from The Anuenue Fund (held by Home Missions, but with agreements that \$500,000 will be designated for church planting projects in Greater Los Angeles) and \$15,000 per year for 3 years from Home Missions' regular planting fund.

102814:5.2 A motion was made to accept the updated CENT Application Form. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:5.3 A motion was made to approve Tomas Ivens as the new CENT member. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:5.4 A motion was made to accept and approve new name of the Anuenue Fund and the use of its monies. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

Joel Van Soelen expressed gratitude to Tom Doorn for his faithful service of over 25 years as the team chair. Thanks were also expressed to retiring members of CENT, Elmer Tandayu and Matt Sapp, for their service on the Church Empowering and Networking Team.

102814:6 World Renew Report by Dirk Van Eck Jr.

102814: 6.1 Dirk Van Eck Jr shared about the 2014 World Renew Hunger Campaign: Farm to Table and encouraged churches to use the "Peter Fish" for collections to help end hunger. He also brought maps showing where World Renew works around the globe for each pastor to take back and share with their churches. World Renew is working with the Christian Health Organization in training health workers about the Ebola crisis and is also helping to provide supplies to Liberia.

102814:7 Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

102814:7.1 A motion was made to approve the Leadership Development Report. The motion, which included the setting up of a YOUTH FUND, was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:7.2 Sid shared how the Camp Dunamis budget doesn't cover the cost of the leaders to attend Camp Dunamis. Approximately \$4,000 is needed to cover their costs. The new YOUTH FUND would include funds for leadership development costs for Camp Dunamis and support Project Timothy.

102814:8 Classis Mission Leader (CML) Report

102814:8.1 Sid Sybenga, the CML, shared the GLA Church Planting Proposal and the Anuenue Fund. (see CENT report) as well as information on the TogetherLA conference on Feb 26-28, 2015 (see CLT report) and the Timothy Leadership Training that was held in October 2014. The October TLT had 20 Classis GLA people who were able to attend the Timothy Leadership Training. Twice a year there is a South East Asia Pacific Island (SEAPI) conference and this year 5 GLA pastors were able to attend after a generous donation of \$2,000 was made to cover their travel costs. There is now a line item on the budget for \$2,000 so the SEAPI pastors can attend one of the conferences every year.

Sid also shared the West Coast Church Resourcing budget and handed out a Church Contact Information sheet to be completed and returned to Sid by the end of the meeting. Jonas Muljo (Classis GLA webmaster) is going to have a clickable link to each church in Classis GLA on the "home" page of the website. The Church Contact Information sheet will help make the information up to date.

102814:8.2 Charles Kim handed out a flyer and spoke about the upcoming GLOCAL Church Summit 2014 that is being held at TtoKamsa Mission Church in Los Angeles on November 17-19, 2014. Details can be found at www.GlocalChurch.net.

102814:9 Finance Team Report

102814: 9.1 Goldene Byma shared the proposed Classis GLA 2015 budget, maintaining the current ministry share of \$62.00 per confessing member. A motion was made to approve the 2015 budget. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

102814: 9.2 The Treasurers' Report (January through June 2014) was shared by Goldene Byma. A motion was made to approve this report. The motion was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:10 Church Credentialing Committee Report

102814:10.1 An Ecclesiastical Credential letter requesting the transfer of Il Yong Kang's credentials from Classis California South to Classis Greater Los Angeles was received. Rev. Soo Min Bang was invited to the October 28, 2014 classis meeting to speak about this request but wasn't at the meeting. Since there is no official letter of call a motion was made to table the acceptance of the request until an official call is extended. The motion to table was **supported** and **approved**.

102814:11 Back to God Hour Video Presentation

102814: 11.1 Allison Libolt Renkema gave a brief report and shared a video celebrating 75 years of the Back to God Hour. She handed a flyer with information on the programs that they currently offer.

102814: 12 My Walk of Faith by Al Mulder

102814: 12.1 Bonny Mulder-Behnia shared the book that Al Mulder wrote about Ernest Benally, a biography of the first Navajo missionary in Classis Red Mesa. The cost of the book is \$7 and that is to cover the cost of printing. If interested in a copy, please contact Bonny Mulder Behnia at bmulderbehnia@rosewoodchurch.com .

102814:13 President Mulder-Behnia thanked Bethel Sun Valley for their hospitality in hosting the meeting, refreshments and lunch. She then entertained the motion to adjourn which was **supported** and Joel Van Soelen closed in prayer.

102814: 14 The next meeting of Classis will be on *THURSDAY, February 26, 2015* at West Angeles Church – Cathedral.

Additional Classis meetings for 2015 are:

May 5, 2015

October 27, 2015