

# Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

**Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm**

Hosted virtually over Zoom from First (Bellflower)

President: John Medendorp Vice-President: Micah Bruxvoort Clerk: Aaron Solomon-Mills

**022321: 1 Opening and Devotions: Kristen Reitkerk West Region Connections Catalyzer**

Lent is a time to reflect on our personal and congregational spiritual health – a season of gratitude and longing. How is God calling us to restoration and flourishing following a pandemic? Philippians 1:3-6 – What does it mean to join the good work begun in Christ? Kristen shared about Our Journey 2025, a CRCNA initiative working toward cultivating practices of prayer and spiritual discipline, listening to voices of every generation, growing in diversity and unity by seeking justice, reconciliation and welcome and sharing the gospel, both missionally and by planting churches. Find more resources at [crcna.org/ourjourney](http://crcna.org/ourjourney)

**022321: 2 Introductions, Credentials and Covenant Signing:** The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. 15 Established Churches attended the meeting. 5 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The President welcomed presenters and guests present. No first-time delegates signed the Office Bearer’s covenant (Virtual meeting)

Established Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen	Henry Quan	Jason Devries
Anaheim Latin American	Mirtha Villafane		
Arcadia Hope International	Faith Lim, Randy Boer		
Artesia, First	Absent		
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Steve Devries	
Bellflower, First	Zachary Vandenberg		
Bellflower, Bethany	Brian Willats		
Bellflower, God’s Grace Christian	Absent		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Bonny Mulder Behnia, John Medendorp,		
Buena Park, Grace Christian Fellowship	Absent		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	Absent		
Cerritos, Cerritos Mission Church	Absent		

Covina, The Bridge	Absent		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Tae Kim, Ken Hong		
Long Beach	Bryan Branderhorst	Ken Grasmeyer Jeff Brouwer	
Long Beach, New City	Tim Cordova	Carl Kromminga	
Los Angeles, Community		Mattie Young	Sheila Mitchell-Burch
Los Angeles, Church of Joy	Absent		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Ron Chu		
Ordot Chalan Pago, Guam Faith Church		Kim Volsteadt Jeff Nelson	
Monterey Park, Chinese			
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Miguel Najarro	Mario Melgar
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le	Chris Dang	Danny Pham
<b><u>Emerging Church</u></b>	<b><u>Pastor</u></b>	<b><u>Parenting Church</u></b>	
Anaheim, Bridge of Hope	<i>Absent</i>	Anaheim CRC	
Artesia, City Church		Bethany Bellflower	
Bellflower, Ethnos	Tomas Ivens	Anaheim, Latin American	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	Absent	Rosewood, Bellflower	
Iglesia Misionera Renacer	Ron Chu	Ttokamsa Mission	
Riverside, Inland Jubilee	Heung Rok Lee	(Jesus Heart Church)	
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	Absent	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	Mirtha Villafane	Latin American	
Santa Clarita Valley Community Church	David Kong	Jesus Heart Church	

## 022321: 3 Classical Leadership Team and Clerk Reports

### 022321:3-1 – Classical Leadership Team Report

#### A. MOTION: Approve the retirement of Rev. David Koll

- a. Grounds - Rev. Koll has reached the appropriate age, submitted the formal request to his church's council, his credentials for approval and, subsequently, the Anaheim Christian Reformed Church has made recommendation to the classis for approval of retirement effective June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- b. This motion from the CLT was **approved**

- c. Rev. Joel Van Soelen (Anaheim) prayed for Rev. Koll on behalf of the classis.

**B. MOTION: Approve the retirement of Rev. Paul Hansen**

- a. Grounds - Rev. Hansen has reached the appropriate age, submitted the formal request to his church's council, his credentials for approval and, subsequently, the First Artesia Christian Reformed Church has made recommendation to the classis for approval of retirement effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- b. This motion from the CLT was approved
- c. Aaron Solomon-Mills (Stated Clerk) prayed for Rev. Hansen on behalf of the classis.

**C. MOTION: Approve Jesus Heart Church as the supervising church for Inland Jubilee – Approved**

**D. MOTION: Approve Rev. Joel Van Soelen (Anaheim) to the Classical Leadership Team - Approved**

**022321:3-2 – Items for information**

- A. Regional Pastor Julius Umawing was assigned by the CLT as church counselor to Faith Church in Guam
- B. Rev. Melvin Jackson and Rev. Julius Umawing are on the ballot as potential Calvin Theological Seminary board members from Region 6. Ballots will be distributed to all delegates to this meeting via email, and must be returned to the Stated Clerk by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**022321:4 – Classical Credentialing Team Report (CCT)**

- A. Rev. Ron Chu introduced several individuals from various churches participating in the Commissioned Pastor Training program and members from Iglesia Misionera Renacer who are looking forward to examination/ commissioned pastor ordination.

022321: 5 – A presentation by the council of Community (Los Angeles) concerning their overture to Synod: **Taking a Public Stand Against the Ideology of White Supremacy**

- A. Elder Mattie Young & Deacon Sheila Mitchell-Burch gave an overview of the overture document.
- B. Discussion
- C. MOTION: To table discussion of the overture – Approved**
- D. Rev. Bonny Mulder Benhia prayed on behalf of the classis for healing, unity and more opportunity for listening and learning among the churches.

102720: 6 – World Renew Update – Becky Vanderzee – Classis GLA World Renew Delegate/ World Renew Board Member

- A. Delegates heard a prerecorded greeting and update from Word Renew Executive Director Carol Brehmer Bennett. Bennett thanked Classis GLA for support over the last year. World Renew experienced a growth in impact and reach during coronavirus restrictions. Still the work to relieve hunger and economic distress has grown. World Renew remains determined to serve, and remains dependent on the response of the churches. Churches are asked to take at least 4 offerings a year on the offering calendar. World Renew experienced a sharp decline in giving as second baskets are not often passed in virtual worship services.
- B. Delegates heard a prerecorded greeting from Bob Laarman from Disaster Response Services. While the work of DRS was halted, they are actively looking for creative ways to serve around coronavirus restrictions (remote projects, grants to help families return to their homes, etc). Laarman encouraged churches to distribute printed materials from DRS, to continue offerings and to stay tuned for upcoming efforts.
- C. Becky encouraged churches with questions to contact her. She also mentioned the growth of a shadow pandemic: the abuse of young girls during lockdowns while schools are shut down. In discussion, several delegates expressed interest in some sort of intervening ministry.

**022321:7 – CENT (Church Empowerment & Networking Team)**

- A. The CENT team has been meeting over zoom praying for churches, leaders, pastors and church planters. Classis GLA is providing resources and training for 2 church planters and hopes to introduce at the next classis meeting.
- B. Any pastors or leaders who would like to be a part of the CENT team, contact Tomas Ivens or any member of the CENT team.

- C. Any churches looking to develop a church planting idea, connect with the CENT team to get resources, connections with Resonate, and dream together. Praying for more activity in the teams after the summer.

#### **022321:8 – LDT (Leadership Development Team) Report**

- A. Email Denise Tamminga [dtamminga@rosewoodchurch.com](mailto:dtamminga@rosewoodchurch.com) with any questions about Camp Dunamis or check their website [campdunamis.org](http://campdunamis.org)
- B. Ron Chu, Commissioned Pastor's Training Program director gave an update on the launch of the new training program. The training program began in January with a Korean track, an English track and a Spanish track. At this time Classis Cal South does not have the funds to partner in this training, although they fully endorse it.
- C. Chu took delegates through the scope and sequence of the training program, as well as the application and criteria.

#### **022321:9 – Finance Team Report**

- A. Finance team is looking for new members
- B. The treasurer gave an overview of the 2020 treasurers report.
- C. MOTION: To Approve the 2020 Treasurers Report – **Approved**
- D. Less than 25% have turned in denominational ministry pledges. Please send the treasurer or the stated clerk a letter with your churches' intended pledge

#### **022321:10 – Church Credential Communications to Classis**

- A. Delegates recognized the passing of Rev. Peter Kang, formerly of All Nations Church. Rev. Kang, a longtime minister and missionary for All Nations Church in Los Angeles, died this week due to complications from COVID-19. He was 66 years old. Peter and his wife Christina Kang were both ordained ministers who served at All Nations Church beginning in 1999. They were in charge of the church's Family Ministry from 1999 until 2015, where they were commissioned to perform member care for pastors and missionaries in various locations across the world. He received his Master's in Intercultural Studies and Ph.D from Fuller

Theological Seminary, and M.Div from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was a founder of Providence University in California, which was established in 2019. Since 2000, Peter was an adjunct professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in the School of Intercultural Studies, teaching classes and mentoring dissertations for Master's and Doctoral students. He was a Christian Reformed Church (Classis GLA) Member since 2010 and an associate member of (SMI) Santiphap Mission Initiatives since 2018. He enjoyed cooking, traveling, watching sports, and spending time with his family. Peter is survived by his wife Christina, his son Matthew, daughter-in-law Rochelle, daughter Michelle, son-in-law Frank, and granddaughter Bailey.

022321:11

**MOTION: To adjourn the virtual classis meeting**

022321:11-1

**This motion was made supported and approved**

022321:11-3

Rev. John Medendorp closed the meeting in prayer

**Next Classis meeting:**

May 2021 - TBD