

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, October 16, 2012 8:30 AM

Hosted by LA Community Church, CA

President: Dan Brink Vice-President: David Lee Clerk: Sid Sybenga

101612: 1 Spiritual Orientation & Opening: The president, Rev. Dan Brink, welcomed everyone and introduced the devotional leader Rev. Richard Jones and the GLA Race Relations Team. Message: Frank De Haan; Worship Song: Alison Jones; Prayer: Richard Jones

101612: 1.1 The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Seventeen out of 24 (not counting Guam) Established Churches attended the meeting. Five out of 11 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The leaders listed in the chart below were delegated to deliberate at this meeting.

The following guests were also welcome: Dick Van Eck - World Renew representative, Potential new pastors in GLA Rev. Myo Sook Cho and Hairon Chow, GLA team member Bill Postma; Treasurer: Goldene Byma; West Coast Regional Ministry Leader Arlan Vanden Bos; and Steven Neyenhuis, CRCNA Disability Concerns representative.

On the First CRC of Bellflower Church Credential they requested that their interim Pastor, Rev. Don Byker, be recognized as their pastor delegate at Classis meetings until June 1, 2013. It was so move, supported and carried.

Established Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen	Dick Van Eck	
Anaheim Latin American	Mirtha Villafañe		
Arcadia Hope International	Sid Sybenga	Charles Ho	
Artesia, First	Paul Hansen	Gordon De Young	
Artesia, Trinity	Erick Westra	Clarence De Vries	
Bellflower, First	Don Byker	Thomas Byma	
Bellflower, Bethany	Henry Lengkeek	Charles Boerigter	
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	Diony Aguhub		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Bonny Mulder-Behnia,	Art Lapre	
Burbank, Bethany	<i>absent</i>		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	<i>absent</i>		
Carson, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Covina, The Bridge	<i>Absent</i>		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	David Lee	Chris Choe	
Long Beach		David Haberbush	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Denise McCovey	
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones	Alison Jones	Carl Williams
Los Angeles, New Ground Harvest	<i>Absent</i>		
Los Angeles, Tokamsa Mission	Charles Oh		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	<i>Absent</i>		
Monterey Park, Chinese	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel		Julius Umawing	Frank De Haan
Sun Valley, Sol del Valle	<i>absent</i>		
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		

Emerging Church	Pastor	Parenting Church
Artesia City Church	<i>absent</i>	Bethany Bellflower
Bellflower, Lord's Love Miss	<i>Absent</i>	Bethany, Bellflower
Bellflower, The Church on "X S	Ryan Ver Wys	New City, Long Beach
La Crescenta , God's Dream C	Tim Kwon	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	<i>Absent</i>	Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	<i>Absent</i>	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Sa	<i>Absent</i>	FoL Fountain Valley
The Welcome Center, Anaheim	<i>Absent</i>	Anaheim CRC
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited	Melvin Jackson	L. A. Community
Santa Clarita Valley Community	David Kong	Bethany Korean
Venice Beach, Talking Stick	<i>Absent</i>	Trinity, Artesia
Westminster, Ekklesia CRC	<i>Absent</i>	Hope International

101612:1.2 President declared Classis constituted and appointed Rev. Tandayu and Rev. Van Soelen to review the submitted Church Credentials. First time Classis delegates were requested to and signed the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRCNA.

101612:1.3 The clerk distributed the addendum: ***New Correspondence for the October 16, 2012 GLA Classis Meeting*** – attached below.

101612:2 Race Relations Team (RRT) Report

101612:2.1 The president invited Richard Jones, RRT leader, to present the RRT report on page 4 of the agenda. The Information and Action Items on page 4 of the agenda were received for information.

101612:2.2 RRT requested Classis to endorse the membership of Irma Mendez and Alison Jones on the RRT. Since this request was tabled at the February 28, 2012 meeting of Classis the motion to take it off the table was **seconded** and **passed**. Since the same slate of members was presented an **amendment** to vote on each person separately by ballot was **carried**. The president relinquished the chair for the discussion of this motion to David Lee the vice chair who conducted the vote. The chair was handed back to the president after the vote. The ballot committee later in the meeting reported that the nomination of Alison Jones received **support**, the nomination of Irma Mendez was **defeated**.

101612: 3 Classical Credential Team Report (CCT) by Rev. Erick Westra

101612:3.1 The president invited Erick Westra, CCT leader, to present the CCT report on page 5 of the agenda that was not dealt with at our October 11, 2012 Classis meeting.

101612:3.2 The CCT made a motion to accept and declare the work and ministry description as seminary professor in Korea for Rev. Dr. Joseph Byuongchul Jun of Ttokamsa Mission Church to be consistent with the calling and ministry of a minister of the Word on the grounds that the call letter and ministry description were received and in good order, CRCNA precedence for seminary professors, and the Synodical Deputies at the February 23, 2012 asked for and concurred with this intended action. The motion was **support and carried and concurred**.

101612:3.3 The CCT made the motion that Classis GLA officially recognize the introduction of Hairon Chow, pastor of the New Dawn Spanish congregation in First CRC, Bellflower, as the first step toward establishing eligibility for call in the CRC as a commissioned pastor on the grounds he has completed the application process and is completing the requirements of the learning

covenant. This motion was **support and carried**. The CCT also made the motion that Classis GLA officially recognize the introduction of Rev. Myo Sook Cho, pastor of the Korean congregation in Hope International church of Arcadia, as the first step toward establishing eligibility for call in the CRC as a minister of the Word via Article 8 on the grounds she has completed the application process, was approved by the denominational Credentialing Committee, and is completing the requirement of the learning covenant. This motion was **support and carried**.

101612:3.3 The CCT made the motion to proceed with the classical examination of Kathy QiaoHong Xu on the grounds that she completed the application process, completed the requirements of the learning covenant, and had her ministry description as a commissioned pastor approved by Classis and the Synodical deputies. This motion was **supported and carried**. Rev. Bonny Mulder-Behnia conducted the doctrinal conversation after which the delegates asked further questions. The motion to declare Kathy Xu eligible for call as a commissioned pastor was **made and supported**. Executive session was called. Discussion of the motion ensued, a prayer was offered and a vote was held. The motion **carried**. Kathy was congratulated by President Brink and prayed over by Classis.

101612:4 The Coffee Break

101612: 5 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) Report

101612:5.1 The Classis president invited David Haberbusch, leader of the CLT, to present the CLT report on pages 8-13 of the agenda. The Classis team mandates and their members were received for information.

101612:5.2 CLT made the motion to extend the health insurance grant to help three GLA church planters - Wallace Williams, Jonas Muljo, and Maged Dakdouk - pay their health insurance premiums to the end of 2016. The support grant will pay the lesser of 25% for each pastor's premium up to a total of \$10, 000 per year. The motion was **supported** and **amended** to read up to \$3333.00 per pastor per year instead of "up to a total of \$10, 000 per year." The amended motion **carried**.

101612:5.3 CLT presented their Classis GLA Realignment proposal on pages 8-10 of the agenda and moved its adoption. The motion was **supported**. Some details of the proposal were questioned especially the suggested dates of a Classis meetings. A motion to amend the motion to read "to adopt the proposal in concept as a working document" was **supported and carried**. The amended motion to adopt the proposal in concept **carried**.

101612:5.4 The Clerk's report

101612:5.4.1 Motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 23 and 28, 2012 GLA Classis meetings was **supported and carried**.

101612:5.4.2 By way of separate supported motions Classis approved some of the decisions the Classical Leadership Team made on behalf of Classis since the last Classis meeting in February. They are as follows:

#7: Rev. Henry Lengkeek as church counselor for First CRC Bellflower;

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#10: The official retirement date for Rev. Carlos Aranguiz to be July 31, 2012

#17 & #5 (new): The appointment of Gary Stevens as alternate Synodical Deputy for Classis GLA.

#11 (new): Acknowledge the transfer of the Holy City Chinese emerging church plant to Crosspoint CRC in Chino from Hope International church in Arcadia and advising Classis California South to process the commission pastor ordination of Pastor Yi-Ming Kao under their supervision.

101612:5.4.3 The clerk also read the reports from Rev. Neil Culbertson and Rev. David Jeltema, encouraged churches to nominate minority pastors for the denominational Candidacy Committee, and noted the upcoming preaching seminar with Dr. Jeff Weima on January 14 in Bethany Church. Classis instructed the clerk by way of motion to send Rev. Neil Culbertson a card on behalf of Classis. **Carried.**

101612:5.4.4 The motion to approve the work of the stated Clerk was **supported and carried.**

101612: 6 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT)

formerly New Church Development Report (NCDT)

101612:6.1 The President invited Tom Doorn, the CENT leader, to present the CENT report on pages 18 – 35. Most of the items and proposals were received for information.

101612:6.2 CENT made the motion to approve the following persons to be members of the CENT team: Rev. Alison Jones, Mr. Matt Sapp, Rev. Maged Dakdouk, and Rev. Chris Choe. These nomination were **supported** and the motion **carried.**

101612:6.3 Tom Doorn introduced the new Evangelism (CENT) Fund. This fund resulted when Classis approved the merging of the Classis GLA Loan Fund, the proceeds from the Crenshaw property, and the Church Development Fund. This fund contains about \$265,000. These funds will be available to the churches of Classis for evangelism projects once the guidelines have been approved by Classis in February 2013. Tom reviewed in detail the draft guidelines for the CENT Fund on pages 23 – 26 and welcome comments, inputs, and suggestions for improvement. One item especially triggered discussion, namely the requirement of having paid 100% of the Classis ministry shares. The draft guidelines were received for information, will go to the CENT team for revision, and approval by Classis February 26, 2013.

101612:6.4 CENT made the motion that the CENT serve as the Evangelism Fund Team in 2013 to allow the establishment of the Evangelism Fund Team after the February 26, 2013 Classis meeting should the guidelines pass to process the first year's grant requests. Motion was **supported and carried.**

101612:6.5 CENT made the motion to permit the CENT to use \$6000 of the Evangelism Fund for its 2013 budgeted expenses. Motion was **supported and carried.**

101612:6.6 Tom invited Arlan Vanden Bos, the interim leader of the West Coast Regional Ministry Team, to report on the work of the RMT. Arlan highlighted the RMT's service of doing church assessments and noted the need for congregational coaches. Also Rev. Elmer Tandayu, the GLA New Church Development Specialist, invited everyone to attend the Church

Planting/Parenting Summit in Bethany CRC on November 12-14, 2012 and handed out the Church Planters Newsletter.

101612:7 Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

022012:7.1 The president invited Bill Postma, LDT leader, to present the LDT report on page 35 of the agenda. The report was received for information.

101612:7.2 The LDT, in support of the Hispanic Ministry Developer in Classis GLA, requested Classis to endorse the use of the Miami International Theological Seminary training program to develop leaders for the Spanish churches in Classis GLA and to support this training program with \$3000 of the LDT budget. This endorsement and support was **moved, supported and carried**.

101612:7.2 The LDT presented to Classis a letter (page 36 of the agenda) from the Southern California Young Calvinist League (SCYCL) requesting \$5000 to help cover the cost of their High School Winter retreat. LDT made the motion that Classis GLA support the SCYCL with \$5000 for 2013. Motion was supported. Motion to amend support to \$2500 was **supported and carried**. Amended motion to support SCYCL with \$2500 in 2013 **carried**. Classis instructed the LDT and the SCYCL to present a proposal at a future Classis meeting if continued support is needed .

101612:8 Church Credentials Committee Report

101612:8.1 Bethel CRC of Sun Valley requested Classis to delay the official disbanding of the Sol del Valle congregation and appoint a counselor to explore the possibility of a merger. President Brink delegated action on this request to the CLT.

101612:8.2 Fountain of Life Church of Fountain Valley requested a discussion about the responsibilities of being a parenting church. President Brink delegated this request to the CLT for action. Also their pastor, Rev. Matt Ford, noted his willingness to serve on the Classical Credentialing Team. This offer to serve was communicated to the CCT.

0101612: 9 Finance Team (FT) Report by Goldene Byma

101612:9.1 FT reviewed the treasurer's report on pages 38 - 42. The report included team expenditures from January 1 – June 30, 2012, fund balances, and the churches' ministry share giving record in the first six months of 2012. Motion to accept the treasurer's report **Passed**. It was noted that Classis GLA has \$126, 000 in the general fund. The FT recommended Classis keep a minimum balance of \$50, 000 in this fund and that Classis decide what to do with the remainder. President Brink delegated what to do with the remainder to the CLT and recommended they come up with a proposal at a future Classis meeting.

101612:9.2 The FT presented the proposed 2013 GLA budget totaling \$115, 600 and suggested the ministry share per contributing church member be kept the same as last year at \$62. Motion was **supported, and carried**. The president thanked Goldene for her excellent work.

101612:10 Guest Speakers: Dick Van Eck, our Classical representative for World Renew, addressed Classis about the name change of CRWRC to World Renew and the global reach of this denominational ministry. Steve Nyenhuis, our Classical representative for CRCNA's Disability Concerns, addressed Classis. He introduced himself as the new rep., and encouraged all churches to think inclusion of all people in our communities especially those who have some

form of disability.

101612:11 Closing

102011:9.1 President Dan Brink thanked the host LA Community Church and their pastors Richard and Alison Jones for their hospitality and for providing the lunch.

102011:9.2 President Dan Brink thanked everyone for their participation and made the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Delegates were encouraged to stay for lunch. Vice President David Lee closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Sid Sybenga, GLA Clerk

Addendum

New Correspondence for the October 16, 2012 GLA Classis Meeting

1. From Albert Ompi, former elder in the Indonesian Ministry of Hope International Church. "In ICRC's congregational meeting today, September 30th, 2012, it was unanimously agreed for ICRC to contemplate an independent avenue following ICRC's detachment from the CRC denomination with the effect as of September 30th, 2012." 10/1/2012 *FYI*
2. **From David Jeltema: "Just want to update you on my whereabouts: I am currently on deployment, based in Okinawa, Japan. I arrived here four weeks ago and will be here and throughout the SE Asia area until December. Ministry is going well here. Deployment presents great ministry opportunities as Marines are away from the comforts and pressures of home. We have started a dynamic small group ministry that is going strong. The Lord has blessed me with a believing commanding officer who is very supportive of ministry." 7/4/2012 *FYI & prayer*
3. **From David Jeltema: "I am currently on USS Bonhomme Richard en route of the Philippines for an exercise on one of the islands. It's the rainy season, so we are planning on 10 hot, wet days of living in field conditions. I had a really neat experience this past weekend. Our ship pulled into Guam and I made contact with Faith CRC on the island. (I think they affiliated with Classis GLA about four years ago. They still retain the word "Presbyterian" in the church's name.) They organized a service project for 40 of the Marines from my battalion. We worked with them on a beach beautification project near the church and also did some landscaping work at a small Christian college - Pacific Islands University - which is not too far from the church. After a day of hard work in the hot sun, we went back to Faith CRC where the rest of the congregation had gathered to welcomed the young Marines, fed them a fabulous meal, and then invited them to worship, during which the University choir sang 4 beautiful island melodies. This congregation is one of the warmest, most hospitable CRC groups that I have ever met. The tough Marines were deeply touched, and some were even in tears as they took in the beauty of genuine hospitality and worship. As we boarding the bus back to base, one of them said, "Chaplain, do we really need to leave? I want to stay here for a while. This feels like home." Another said that it was the best day he had since joining the Marines Corps 3 years ago. It was an unforgettable day - truly a foretaste of heaven as believers from opposite side of the world met on a far flung Pacific island for fellowship and worship. This day will not be soon

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forgotten by any of the Marines who attended. It was an important event to strengthen their fledgling faith during a long deployment far from their households of faith. I think it represented the power of our CRC affiliation and cooperation at its best.” 10/1/2012
david.jeltema@gmail.com

4. From JJ Yoo: “Upon the kind advices from a classis clerk and synodical deputies, regarding the tenure of my credential, I will gladly be looking for a church in where I can participate in the ministry of CRC family while I will be having a position of ‘study leave.’ Selecting a church would be happen, I suppose, no later than at the end of the March, 2013. I hope my statement would be helpful and reasonable for this issue for the classis meeting on October.” 9/26/2012 *FYI*
5. **From Dee Recker: The CRCNA board approved the appointment of Rev. Gary Stevens as alternate Synodical Deputy for Classis GLA. 10/2/2012 *FJ*
6. **From Claudia Martinez, deacon of Sol Del Valle CRC of Sun Valley: A letter dated September 20, 2012 informing Classis GLA that at their council meeting of July 29, 2012 they decided to close the ministry of Sol Del Valle due to financial hardships. 10/2/2012 *FYI and filed.*
7. From David Koll, director of the CRCNA Credentialing Committee, giving approval for the “colloquium doctum” for Rev. Alison Jones and Rev. Sung Chil Choi. 10/3/2012 *FYI*
8. From Joseph Chun: He requested by a phone call to the clerk, that at its October 2012 meeting Classis GLA delay his release from the ministry of the Word in the CRCNA until its February 2013 meeting. 10/4/2012 *FYI and adjudication.*
9. From Charles Oh, pastor of Ttokamsa Mission church, requesting Classis extend the “eligibility for call” for Paul Cha as he continues to seek a place of ministry in the CRCNA. 10/4/2012 *FYI and adjudication.*
10. From Hendry Lie: “Thank you [clerk] for your email. I do not think there will be an opening ministry for me in the future in the CRCNA. Therefore, I agree that Classis GLA to release me from ministry in the CRCNA.” 12/6/2011 *FYI and adjudication.*
11. **From Chino Crosspoint CRC and Hope Int’l Church of Arcadia announcing the transfer of the Holy City Chinese emerging church plant led by Rev. Yi-Ming Kao, a joint project by Classis Cal South and GLA, to Crosspoint CRC from Hope International Church of Arcadia. Rev. Yi-Ming was ordained as a ministry associate by Classis GLA in July 2008 and Crosspoint CRC will become his calling church. 7/2012 *FYI and approval of transferring his credentials to Crosspoint CRC of Chino.*
12. From Carl Kromminga, pastor of New City Church in Long Beach, indicating New City Church will request an extension of “eligibility for call” for Rev. Daniel Mendez on their Classical Credentials for the October 11, 2012 GLA Classis meeting. 10/5/2012 *FYI*