

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday, May 7, 2013 8:30 AM

Hosted by the Latin American CRC, Anaheim, CA

President: Dan Brink Vice-President: Peter Kang Clerk: Sid Sybenga

050713: 1 Spiritual Orientation & Opening: The Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) led Classis in a time of worship. Mr. Piet Goedhart led the singing and Joel Van Soelen read from Acts 1:1-11 and spoke briefly about Christ's call to his people to be bold witnesses for him. Peter who was a coward 50 days before Pentecost in Acts 2, transforms into a bold witness through the power of the Holy Spirit. The CENT desires to help churches empower their members through the power Holy Spirit to be bold witnesses for Christ.

050713: 1.1 Joel Van Soelen of the CENT distributed a CENT questionnaire and asked the delegates fill it out and do some table sharing.

050713:2.1 Welcome and Preliminaries

President Dan Brink thanked the CENT for their presentation, introduced the officers of the meeting, and asked the clerk to take the roll of credentialed delegates. The clerk noted that 15 of the 24 established churches (not including Guam) were present and 5 of the 11 emerging churches (not including Hawaii and the Talking Stick) were present. President Brink declared Classis constituted and appointed Peter Kang and Carl Kromminga to review the submitted Church Credentials . Two first-time Classis delegates signed the Covenant for Office Bearers.

022613:2.3 The clerk listed the following credentialed churches and delegates of Classis

Established Churches	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen,	Dick Pickee	
Anaheim Latin American	Mirtha Villafaña	Marivel Rodriguez	Angela Perez
Arcadia Hope International	Sid Sybenga,	Myo Sook Cho	
Artesia, First	Absent		
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Clarence DeVries	
Bellflower, First	Don Byker	Tom Byma	
Bellflower, Bethany	Henry Lengkeek,	Lon Wagner	
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	Dionisio Aguhob		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Bonny Mulder-Behnia,	Dan Brink,	Fernando Valencia
Burbank, Bethany	Absent		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	Absent		
Carson, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Covina, The Bridge	Absent		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Absent		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	David Lee	Peter Kang	Chris Choe,
Long Beach	Brent Wassink		David Haberbush
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga,	Tim Cordova	
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones	Alison Jones	Gregg Lyles
Los Angeles, Harvest Church of	Absent		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	Absent		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian			
Monterey Park, Chinese	Absent		
Santa Fe Springs Together Community	Sung Chil Choi		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Julius Amawing		
Westminster, Little Saigon (24)	Absent		

Emerging Churches	Pastor	Parenting Church
Artesia City Church	Absent	Bethany Bellflower
Anaheim Path of Life	Maged Dakdouk O	Anaheim CRC
Bakersfield Campus of All Nations		All Nations Church
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	Absent	Bethany, Bellflower
Bellflower New Dawn	Hairon Chow	First Bellflower
Bellflower, The Church on "X Street"	Ryan Ver Wys - CP	New City, Long Beach
La Crescenta, God's Dream Center	Absent	
Cerritos, Heaven Bound	Absent	Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	Absent	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
Santa Clarita Hope Community Church	David Kong - O	Bethany Korean
Venice Beach, Talking Stick		Trinity, Artesia
Westminster, Ekklesia CRC (11)	Absent	Hope International
<i>CP = Commissioned Pastor O= Minister of the Word</i>		

022613:3 Classical Credential Team Report (CCT) by Rev. Erick Westra

1022613:3.1 The president invited Erick Westra, CCT leader, to present the CCT report on page 4 of the agenda. He informed Classis that the Colloquium Doctum for Rev. Myo Sook Cho was postponed to our October Classis meeting.

022613:3.2 The CCT made the motion to accept and approve the following ministry description for Hairon Chow as a commissioned pastor in the CRCNA:

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION FOR HAIRON M. CHOW

Commissioned Pastor of the First Christian Reformed Church of Bellflower serving as Pastor of the New Dawn Christian Church - Iglesia Cristiana Nuevo Amanecer on their campus.

Ministry Purpose:

To lead and develop the Hispanic New Dawn Christian Church by serving as their pastor, Lead Teacher, Family Counselor, Evangelist and Discipleship Facilitator.

Duties:

- Serves as the preaching and teaching Pastor of the Congregation.
- Oversees the outreach/evangelism ministry.
- Leads a Discipleship-Bible Program to equip and commission leaders for the church.
- Leads Prayer/Fasting groups within the church.
- Organizes Community Outreach events: (e.g. *Mission Possible, All Nations Celebration, "40 days of purpose"*.)

Accountability:

- Ministers under the supervision of and reports to the Council of First Bellflower Church.
- Ministers in cooperative partnership with the Lead Pastor of First CRC and God's Grace Church.
- Participates in the Revelation 7 group for mutual support and fosters connections with other CRC Pastors.
- Will continue to be mentored in CRC beliefs and practices for three years.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Bi-lingual (English and Spanish)
- Passion for people of all races, languages, culture and background to get to know our LORD Jesus Christ.
- Preaching, Teaching and Pastoring.
- Certified Family Counselor – (Both pastor and wife are certified)
- Cross-Cultural abilities: Love to travel and reach out people from other countries.
- Experience in International Missions and Campaign (Evangelism).
- Disciplined in pursuit of excellence
- Hospitable
- Working with the Vision and Mission we are currently starting with First CRC, God's Grace and New Dawn as Partnership Task Force (PTF) to be one in Christ and reach out the community.
- Human Resources Management.
- Computer Experience: Excel, Word, Power Point, Publisher and the Church Data Base (Power Church.)

This motion was **supported and carried**. The synodical deputies gave preliminary approval of the ministry description by email but will wait to concur via email after the approval of Classis. During the discussion of the motion to declare Hairon eligible for call and ordination in the CRCNA (below) the line "Will continue to be mentored in CRC beliefs and practices for three years" was added.

022613:3.3 CCT requested permission to proceed with the Classical examination of Hairon Chow and called on Pastor Fatu Auau to conduct the examination. After 30 minutes of questioning the conversation was opened to the delegates. The president declared executive session. Motion was made to declare Hairon Chow eligible for call and ordination as a commissioned pastor in the CRCNA. Motion was **supported**. It was clarified that Hairon will serve as a commissioned pastor of the First CRC of Bellflower and that he will serve to grow and emerge the New Dawn Hispanic congregation into the CRCNA. Delegates asked for the sermon evaluation report done by Norberto Wolfe and Fernando Valencia. The report was read by Erick Westra. Maged Dakdouk offered a prayer for guidance and a ballot vote was taken. Motion **Carried**. Sid Sybenga, Peer Relations Pastor, was delegated to help Pastor Chow acquire a new mentor since his former mentor retired and moved out of state.

050713:4 The Coffee Break for Networking and Fellowship

050713: 5 Classical Leadership Team (CLT) Report

050713:5.1 The Classis president invited David Haberbush, leader of the CLT, to present the CLT report on pages 5 of the agenda. David requested Classis to approve the nomination of Dan Brink as a new member on the CLT. **Approved**. It was noted that David Lee cannot serve as the "clerk in training" as requested in the agenda and urged the churches to nominate another candidate who should begin serving by August 2014.

050713:5.2 CLT announced and requested the churches to participate in a Classis Retreat May 23 at Bethany CRC from 9 AM – 2 PM. The purpose of the retreat is to refocus our Classis Better Together vision and evaluate and improve our mission together. President Brink requested that this invitation be presented as a motion and that support would indicate a commitment to attend the retreat. The motion was **supported** with a hand vote of 18 yes votes and 1 no.

050713:5.3 Clerk Report

050713:5.3.1 The Clerk requested the Church Counselors to report on their work. Rev. Tom Doorn reported that Faith Presbyterian CRC of Guam extended a call to Rev. Tom Van Engen of Hawarden, Iowa. Rev. Van Engen accepted the call and will be installed May 26, 2013. The Clerk noted having received the Ecclesiastical Credential for Rev. Van Engen from the Hawarden CRC and Classis Heartland and that the CLT authorized the installation. Faith Church requested Classis GLA participation in the installation and the CLT is sending the Peer Relations Pastor, Sid Sybenga to Guam to officiate at the installation and extend GLA greetings and support. Rev. Henry Lengkeek reported on his counselor work with First CRC of Bellflower. First Church had the services of interim pastor Don Byker for a year and is now in the last stages of extending a call to a person who is waiting to be declared a candidate in the CRCNA. Rev. Sid Sybenga reported on his counselor work with Bethel CRC of Sun Valley. After several years of rebuilding their financial base and clarifying their multi-ethnic needs Bethel Church extended a call to candidate Micah Bruxvoort. Mr. Bruxvoort accepted the call and hopes to move to Sun Valley in June 2013.

050713:5.3.2 The clerk presented the following list of communications for information, action and approval:

Received

1. West Coast Regional Ministry team March Newsletter (March 5)
2. From Tong Park indicating that Together Community Church of Santa Fe Springs completed all the required paper work for affiliation as an established church in the CRCNA for the October 11 GLA Classis meeting . This affiliation request should have been approved before Classis GLA examined Rev. Sung Chil Choe since they are the calling church.
3. Notice from David Jeltema that he cannot serve as a Synodical delegate for Synod 2013. (March 11)
4. CRCNA documentation for Visa applications for Artesia First (March 12)
5. New contact with Ron Black at pastorronblack@gmail.com (March 12)
6. Notice from Charles Oh that he cannot serve as a Syndical delegate for Synod 2013 (March 15)
7. Prayer Summit grant requests (March)
8. Overture to form a Safe Church team in Classis GLA from the council of First CRC of Bellflower. (March 26) Paper copy received (April 5)

9. Notice from Tom Doorn (GLA counselor) and Todd Zuidema (Classis Heartland clerk) informing Classis GLA that Rev. Tom Van Engen accepted the call to Faith Presbyterian CRC of Mangilo, Guam. (April 2)
10. West Coast Regional Ministry team April Newsletter (April 2)
11. Ecclesiastical Credential for a Minister of Rev. Tom Van Engen from Classis Heartland. (April 6)
12. Request from Audrey DeDoes about the status of the Classis GLA abuse response team (April 13)
13. Record of Prayer Summit attendees from CRCNA
14. Commissioned Pastor Ministry description for Hairon Chow from the Council of First CRC of Bellflower (April 25)
15. Denominational inquiry about the ordination status of BJ. Jun of Ttokamsa Church . (April 29)

Sent

1. A request to Tong Park and Rick Westra inquiring about the status of Together Community Church in light of Classis GLA declaring Rev SungCHil Choe eligible for call in the CRCNA.
2. February Classis Newsletter to all churches (March 12)
3. Notice to Melvin Jackson that he will serve as Synodical delegate instead of David Jeltema. (March 11)
4. Classis GLA Credential for Synodical delegates to the CRCNA (March 13)
5. Minutes of Classis GLA meeting of February 26, 2013 to the GLA churches and the denominational contacts (March 13)
6. New contact with Ron Black at pastorronblack@gmail.com March
7. Notice to Fernando Valencia that he will serve as Synodical delegate instead of Charles Oh. (March 15)
8. March Classis Newsletter to all churches (March 26)
9. Notice that Prayer Summit grant will be disbursed after the event. (March)
10. Notice to GLA churches how they can apply to the CENT fund for grants to support outreach projects. (March 28)
11. Request for Synodical Deputies for our May 7 Classis meeting (April 10)
12. Agenda for Classis GLA meeting of May 7 to all the GLA churches (April 15)
13. April Classis Newsletter to all churches (April 19)
14. Leadership Training Workshops announcement for May 2/3 sent to all GLA and CalSouth churches (April 22)
15. To Audrey DeDoes conveying the status of the GLA abuse response team (April 25)
16. To Goldene Byrna (GLA treasurer) a record of all the GLA members attending the Prayer Summit who should receive a support grant. (April 25)
17. Fan the Flame announcement sent to all GLA churches (April 29)

18. Information about BJ. Jun's article 12 of the Church Order status to the CRCNA yearbook office. (April 29)
19. Ministry description and sermon of Hairoon Chow to the GLA churches (May 3)
20. Cancellation of Synodical Deputies for the May 7 Classis meeting. (May 3)

Motions:

1. Accept Together Community Church of Santa Fe Springs as a CRCNA established church and member of Classis GLA on the grounds that the required Church Order (article 38c) paper work was completed through the Korean Ministry office of Rev. Tong Park.

Supported and Carried

2. Accept and approve the minutes of the February 26, 2013 Classis GLA meeting sent out March 13 and approved by the CLT at its April 4 meeting. **Supported and Carried**

050713: 6 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT)

050713:6.1 The President invited Tom Doorn, the CENT leader, to present the CENT report on pages 8 – 15 of the agenda. Most of the items and were received for information.

050713:6.2 CENT made the motion (motion A) to accept and approve the ministry description for the new Home Mission supported Classis GLA Mission Leader position described on pages 12 -15. Tom Doorn read the Role Description on page 12, quickly reviewed the qualification and skills on pages 13 and 14, and read and emphasized points #1 and #2 under Administration on page 15 - indicating that this Classis Mission Leader would be an employee/contractor of Classis GLA and supervised by the CENT and CLT of Classis GLA. The budget part of the motion was amended from \$12,000 to \$15,000 to reflect the grant amount Home Missions has indicated they will give. **Motion was supported and carried.** A supplementary motion was made and supported authorizing the CENT to work out the details of the job description with Home Mission. Motion **carried.**

CENT then presented Motion B authorizing CENT to send out a letter to all the churches inviting pastors to apply for this Classis Mission Leader position, to review the applications, to interview the applicants and submit a single name to Classis for approval. Motion was **seconded and carried.**

050713:6.3 Mirtha Villafane of the CENT promoted the upcoming ***Fan the Flame*** evangelism conference to be held May 18 in Anaheim. She noted that Bob Logan will be the guest speaker and distributed an information flier to all the delegates.

050713:6.4 Elmer Tandayu of the CENT spoke about the Ablaze evangelism campaign. Richard Jones encouraged all the churches to participate in the Classis-wide All Nations Harvest Festival June 2, 2013 at Bethany CRC in Bellflower at 3 PM.

050713:7 Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

050713:7.1 The president invited Mr. Bill Postma, LDT coordinator, to present the LDT report on pages 16 - 18. Most of the report was received for information. Added information was given about the Sea to Sea fund raising effort this summer to help the poor.

050713:7.2 LDT made the motion to adopt the following guidelines to receive a grant from the Church Assessment Fund:

- a. The church must also apply to the CRCNA Sustaining Congregational Excellence for partial funding of the assessment.
- b. The church has paid their approved ministry shares.
- c. The church is committed to paying one third of the cost of the assessment.
- d. If the church is too large to apply for funding from Sustaining Congregational Excellence, the Church Assessment Fund will pay up to 50% of the cost.
- e. The grant is for a LDT approved Assessment Process.

The motion to adopt these guidelines carried. Classis also approved the application form by which churches can apply to the Assessment Fund for a grant.

050713:8 Race Relations Team (RRT) Report

050713:8.1 The president invited Richard Jones, RRT leader, to present a verbal RRT report. Rev. Jones challenged the churches of GLA to participate in a pulpit exchange with a pastor of another ethnicity before October 6, 2013. Fatu Auau encouraged church members and leaders to attend the Multi-Ethnic Conference (MEC) in Grand Rapids in June.

050713: 9 Church Credential Committee Report

050713:9.1 Rev. Carl Kromminga and Dr. Peter Kang reported the church credential's request from Pastor Dionisio Aguhub of God's Grace Church of Bellflower asking Classis to approve reverting God's Grace Church back to "unorganized" status. This request was opposed by God's Grace's council. The advisory credentials team recommended receiving this letter for information and delegating this request to the CLT and the church visiting team for further discussion with the council and pastor of God's Grace Church. Advice accepted. Letter was filed for CLT review.

050713:9.2 The overture from First CRC of Bellflower to form a Safe Church Team to serve Classis GLA was moved by Rev. Don Byker and supported. The proposal was accepted in principle but delegated to the CLT and the Council of First CRC Bellflower to flesh out a clear proposal that will spell out the ministry description, how this team would fit in the Classis structure, the history and needs of Classis in terms of abuse awareness, and the financial implications. The Finance team indicated there was enough money in the Classis General Fund to cover the projected costs of \$1000. Motion to table the overture to the October Classis meeting is approved.

050713: 10 Finance Team (FT) Report by Goldene Byma

050713:10.1 FT requested Classis to approve Rev. Henry Lengkeek as a member of the Finance team. Request approved.

050713:11 Synod 2013:

050713:11.1 The Clerk, Sid Sybenga, conveyed the need for Classis to appoint a board member to the West Coast Church Resourcing Board . This board oversees the financial affairs of the West Coast Regional ministry team. A volunteer was invited to join the team for its summer budget meeting. Mr. Tom Byma volunteered.

050713:11.2 Classis was invited to make comments, inquires, and give advice to the Synodical delegates concerning the agenda of the upcoming Synod meeting. All four delegates were present at the meeting. Delegate Dan Brink gave an extensive synopsis of the Task Force Reviewing Structure and Culture in the CRCNA. Classis closed the meeting with Korean style prayers for Synod, our delegates, and the challenges facing the CRCNA and the Churches of Classis.

050713:12 President Dan Brink thanked Rev. Mirtha Villafane and the Latin American congregation for their hospitality and for the refreshments and the lunch.

050713:13 The next meetings of Classis will be
A “better together” retreat May 23, 2013 in Bethany CRC
and October 22, 2013 in Lakeview Terrace hosted by All Nations Church