

Classis Greater Los Angeles

of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:30 AM

Hosted by All Nations Church, Lake View Terrace, CA

President: Melvin Jackson; Vice-President: Brent Wassink; Clerk: Sid Sybenga

102213: 1 Opening: Since several officers were delayed in traffic the clerk introduced the guests from Guam who attend the meeting. Rev. Tom Van Engen introduced himself to Classis as the new Guam pastor and extended Guam greetings. The clerk also welcomed James Black who is seeking affiliation with Classis GLA and Enoc Rodriguez who is church planting in Classis.

10222013: 1.1 The president, Rev. Melvin Jackson invited Rev. Richard Jones to lead the opening devotions. Pastor Jones gave a rousing talk encouraging everyone be excited about sharing Jesus.

10222013:1.2 The Stated Clerk collected the credentials and took the roll of churches present. Nineteen out of 24 Established Churches attended the meeting. Three out of 10 emerging congregations attended the meeting. The following leaders (in chart below) were delegated to deliberate at this meeting. Several other guests were also introduced, six first time delegates signed the Office Bearer's covenant, after which the president declared Classis constituted.

Established Church	Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Anaheim	Joel Van Soelen	Bill Postma	
Anaheim Latin American	Mirtha Villafañe	Aracelly Montenegro	
Arcadia Hope International	Sam Lee	Myo Sook Cho	Charles Ho
Artesia, First	Petr Kornilov	Rich Boersma	
Artesia, Trinity	Rick Westra	Randy Van Essen	
Bellflower, First	Don Byker	Thomas Byma	
Bellflower, Bethany	Lon Wagner	Fred Wind	
Bellflower, God's Grace Christian	<i>Absent</i>		
Bellflower, Rosewood	Dan Brink		
Buena Park, Grace Christian Fellowship	Elmer Tandayu		
Burbank, Bethany	Soo Min Bang		
Camarillo, Iglesia CRC	<i>absent</i>		
Covina, The Bridge	SaeJung (Paul) Chang		
Fountain Valley, Fountain of Life	Matt Ford		
Lake View Terrace, All Nations	Chris Choe	John Lee	Joseph Seung
Long Beach	Brent Wassink	Frank Gerard	
Long Beach, New City	Carl Kromminga	Denice McCovey	
Los Angeles, Community	Richard Jones		
Los Angeles, New Ground Harvest	<i>Absent</i>		
Los Angeles, Ttokamsa Mission	<i>Absent</i>		
Mangilao, Guam, Faith Presbyterian	Tom Van Engen	Kim Volsteadt	
Monterey Park, Chinese	<i>Absent</i>		
Santa Fe Springs, Together Community	<i>Absent</i>		
Sun Valley, Bethel	Micah Bruxvoort	Steward Treiling	Olive Kahura
Westminster, Little Saigon	Matthew Le		
Emerging Church	Pastor	Parenting Church	
Artesia City Church	<i>Absent</i>	Bethany Bellflower	
Anaheim, Path of Life	<i>Absent</i>	Anaheim CRC	
Bellflower, Lord's Love Mission	<i>Absent</i>	Bethany, Bellflower	
Bellflower, The Church on "X Street"	<i>Ryan Ver Wys</i>	New City, Long Beach	
La Crescenta , God's Dream Center	<i>Absent</i>		

Cerritos, Heaven Bound	<i>Absent</i>	Rosewood, Bellflower
Ewa Beach, Anuenue	<i>Absent</i>	Carson, Grace Chrstn Flwshp
Fountain Valley, Emanuelu Samoan	<i>Absent</i>	FoL Fountain Valley
Los Angeles, Grace Unlimited Fellowship	Melvin Jackson	L. A. Community
Santa Clarita Valley Community Church	David Kong	Bethany Korean
Westminster, Ekklesia CRC	<i>Absent</i>	Hope International

10222013:1.3 President appointed the Bethel (Sun Valley) and God’s Grace Fellowship (Buena Park) delegates to serve as the Classical Credential Committee.

10222013: 2 Church Empowering and Networking Team (CENT) Report by Rev. Tom Dorn

(pages 4 -8 of agenda and supplemental Hawaii report)

10222013:2.1 After a process of advertising and interviewing CENT nominated Rev. Sid Sybenga to fill the new Classis Mission Leader position – a Classical employee supported with Home Missions Grants. The motion to approve this nomination was **seconded and passed.**

10222013:2.2 CENT nominated Rev. Chris Choe, on staff at All Nations CRC and member of CENT; Mr. Matt Sapp, elder at Bethel CRC and member of CENT; Mr. Larry Fries, member of Bellflower House Church CRC; and Ms. Aracelly Montenegro, member of Latin American CRC, to form the CENT fund team to oversee and the grant application and discernment of funds from the CENT fund. Included in this motion was the assumption that Tom Doorn would serve as an advisor for the first year. The motion to approve was **seconded and passed.**

10222013:2.3 CENT made the motion that Classis GLA receive the \$500,000 in the Home Missions Hawaii Fund - designated for church plants on Hawaii only - for church planting use in all of Classis GLA. These funds would be administered under CRCHM and the GLA CENT. The motion was **seconded and Passed.**

10222013:2.4.a CENT gave notice of motion to the next Classis meeting in February 2014 that Classis GLA adopt the draft Church Planting Manual as the guide for church planting in Classis GLA.

10222013:2.4.b CENT listed the churches that received \$22,000 in CENT Fund grants in 2013. It was noted that grant reports are due November 1, 2013; and the deadline for continuing and new grant requests for 2014 are due December 1, 2013.

10222013:2.4.c CENT shared their team goals for 2014. The New Church Development Specialist and the Hispanic Ministries Developer shared their 2014 provisional goals, and it was noted will coordinate their goals with the goals of the Classis Mission Leader.

10222013:2.4.d CENT reported having met with James Black as a possible new church planter in Classis GLA and introduced him to Classis.

10222013: 3 Classical Leadership Team Report (CLT)

by Rev. Brent Wassink (pages 8 -11 of agenda)

10222013:3.1 CLT requested the approval of Rev. Tae Kim, of All Nations Church, to serve as a member of the CLT. Motion to approve **passed**.

10222013:3.2 After accepting the Church visitors' report who followed up to and responded to the tabled motion at the May 7 Classis meeting requesting Classis to "revert back to emerging status" God's Grace Church of Bellflower, the CLT made the motion to release Pastor Dionisio Aguhob as a minister of the Word in the CRCNA according to article 14b of the Church Order with the designation as one "dismissed". Grounds for the motion were given as irreconcilable differences between pastor and council and an unwillingness to submit to the Article 17 process of the Church Order. The motion to release was **supported and passed**. The Synodical Deputies were informed of this action verbally and by email, received the extensive visitor's report, and concurred .

10222013:3.3 With the departure of Rev. Gary Stevens from Classis GLA, CLT nominated Rev. Paul Hansen as the alternate synodical deputy for Classis GLA. The motion was **supported and passed**. Classis also approved the GLA Classis meetings for 2014 to be held February 25, May 6, and October 21.

10222013:4 Classis breaks for refreshments and networking

10222013: 5 Stated Clerk's report by Sid Sybenga (pages 12-14)

10222013:5.1 After receiving notice of Classis' intention to release Daniel Mendez and Paul Cha as ministers of the Word at the October 2012 meeting of Classis GLA, and since they no longer serve in CRCNA ministries and have not found new calling churches to hold their credentials, the clerk moved they be release as minsters of the word in the CRCNA according to Church Order Article 14 d. Motion was **supported and passed**. The Synodical Deputies, although not present at the October 22, 2013 meeting, were present at the October 2012 meeting, were kept aware of the progress of this action, were informed of the pending action and concurred with the Classis action via email.

10222013:5.2 The clerk noted the request of the Bridge Church of Covina on their Classical Credential requesting the change of the calling church for Rev. Heung Rok (James) Lee from the Bridge Church to the Together Community Church of Santa Fe Springs. This transfer was agreed to by the Together Community Church. The clerk made the motion to transfer the minister's credentials of Rev. Lee to Together Church, the motion was **supported and passed**. Secondly the Bridge Church requested by way of their Classical Credential that Classis GLA approved the retirement date of November 1, 2013 for Rev. Hyoung Joon (Joseph) Chun who has reached the age of 65. Motion to approve the retirement date was **supported and passed**.

10222013:5.3 The Clerk highlighted two special communications from the denomination. One from the strategic planning Team encouraging everyone to attend the November 1, 2013 listening and feedback session in Bethany Church in Bellflower. Secondly a letter from Rev. Joel Boot inviting leaders to a special RCA-CRC meeting with the two executive directors of each denomination as they tour Southern California in January 2014.

10222013:5.4 The Classis president invited a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2013 Classis meeting. Motion was made, **supported and passed**. The president also invited a motion to accept and approve the work of the stated clerk. Motion was made **supported and passed**.

10222013: 6 Leadership Development Team (LDT) Report

By Bill Postma (pages 14 -15 of the agenda)

10222013:6.1 LDT requested Classis to approve Rev. John Lee and Rev. Julius Umawing to join the membership of the Leadership Development Team. The request was moved, **supported and passed.**

10222013:6.2 Various Leadership Development opportunities were highlighted, the LDT goals for 2014 were shared, and Bill Postma gave the World Renew report.

10222013:6.3 Henry Karsten gave the CRCNA World Missions report.

10222013: 7 Race Relations Team (RRT) Report by Rev. Richard Jones

10222013:7.1 RRT explained the need to raise the budgeted support level for Camp Dunamis from \$3000 to \$6000 per year, and promised to organize an All Nations Heritage celebration in 2014.

10222013: 8 Finance Team (FT) Report by Goldene Byma

(page 17 of the agenda, plus attached supplementary reports also on web)

10222013:8.1 FT reviewed the treasurer's report summarizing income and expenditures for January – June 2013, fund balances, and churches' ministry share giving. The treasurer move acceptance of the treasurer's report. Motion was **supported and passed.**

10222013:8.2 FT made the motion to approve the 2014 budget on page 17 for a total of \$112,000, and that the per member ministry share remain the same at \$62 per contributing church member . Motion was **supported and passed.**

10222013: 9 Classis Credentials Committee report by Steward Treiling.

10222013:9.1 Credentials Committee confirmed the requests referred to above (5.2) by Bridge Church.

10222013:9.2 God's Grace Christian Church, having gone through a major shakeup of their ministry, confirmed their commitment to contributing their ministry shares to Classis but requested that they be allowed to pay 2% of their offerings in the coming year with a goal of paying a tithe of a tithe when they have regrouped and grown as a church. Request was **supported and passed.**

10222013:10.1 Miscellaneous: First CRC of Bellflower reported that they are in the final stages of calling a pastor, and that they will ordain Hairon Chow as a commissioned pastor to serve in the New Dawn Spanish congregation on November 17. Fountain of Life Church of Fountain Valley offered to host the next Classis meeting February 25, 2014.

10222013:11 Rev. Chris Choe of All Nations Church explained the lunch procedure, and Rev. Carl Kromminga closed in prayer.

