

Minutes
Classis California South
Thursday, February 21, 2012 6:30 p.m.
Location: Trinity Fellowship CRC, San Diego, CA
Chairman of the Day: Pastor Jose Munoz
Vice Chairman: Jim Han
Stated Clerk: Will Verhoef

1. Host Pastor (and Chairman of the day) Jose Munoz welcomed the delegates and guests and opened with prayer. Then he invited reports on the denominational Prayer Summit (Tong Park), Camp Dunamis (Jen Visser), Fan the Flame (Mirtha Villafane) and Disaster Relief Services (Eudell Vis). Delegates were invited to gather in small groups and spend time praying for each other, the ministries they had just heard about and for the work of classis and the denomination in general.
2. Chairman Munoz calls the meeting to order and invites the Stated Clerk to call the roll. What follows are the list of churches and those delegated from those churches.
 - a. Roll call of churches

Delegates from Organized Churches

- 1) Chino, CrossPoint CRC: Bryan Vander Tuig, Bob Baker, Mike Zych
- 2) Fullerton, Orange Korean CRC: no representatives
- 3) Fullerton, Faith Community: no representatives
- 4) Irvine, Urim CRC: no representatives
- 5) La Puente, Hanaro CRC: no representatives
- 6) Las Vegas, Yung Kwang: Dae Won Shin, Steve Kim
- 7) Las Vegas, Grace Valley: no representatives
- 8) Moreno Valley, Oasis Community: Al Breems, LeeVale Butler
- 9) City of Orange, Korean American CRC of Orange County: John Seho Oh
- 10) Redlands, The River CRC: Will Verhoef and Sandy Cooper
- 11) Riverside, Hope Community CRC: Ross Lyberger, Paul Andringa, Kendal Pool
- 12) San Diego, San Diego CRC: John Berends, Gregg Hoolsema, Don Boss
- 13) San Diego, Trinity Fellowship CRC: Jose Munoz, Shirley Turner Dowell, Frances Kelly
- 14) San Marcos, Crossroads CRC: Mark Vermaire, Anita Termaat, Mike Carlson
- 15) Santa Ana, Hmong CRC: no representatives
- 16) Tustin, First Harvest Chapel: Rick Kim
- 17) West Covina, Good News Chapel: Jimmy Han
- 18) Westminster, Korean CRC of Orange County: no representatives

Representatives from emerging churches:

- 1) Laotian Vientiane, Moreno Valley, CA: none
- 2) Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrado, Fontana, CA: Harold Caicedo
- 3) Sovereign Grace Community, Perris, CA: none
- 4) Friendship Community, Fontana, CA: none
- 5) Holy Family Church, Chino, CA: Yi-Ming Kao
- 6) International Church of Praise, Chula Vista, CA: none
- 7) Areumdawoon Church, Las Vegas, NV: none
- 8) Grace CRC, Moreno Valley, CA: Rudy Gonzalez
- 9) Bethesda Church, Pomona, CA: none
- 10) Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church, San Marcos, CA: none

- b. First time delegates signed the Covenant of Officer-bearers.
 - c. Chairman Munoz welcomed several visitors.
3. Separation of Rev. Shin from Yung Kwang CRC of Las Vegas (Church Order Article 17) was dealt with.
- a. Will Verhoef gave information about the Church Order Article 17 process
 - b. Report of Classical Church visitors (Phil duBois and Ron Chu) was given by Rev. Ron Chu.
 - c. Motion made to approve the separation for the weighty reasons given ("Rev. Dae Won Shin and the Church Council had become estranged because of differences each side had in the form of preaching and teaching, both in substance and style. Rev. Dae Won Shin and the church find these differences to be irreconcilable and for the spiritual good of all they seek to end this employment."). Motion passed. Synodical Deputy concurrence will be sought by the Stated Clerk.
 - d. Motion was made to approve the separation package after it had been distributed to the delegates and discussed. Motion was approved.
 - e. Prayer was offered by Rev. Ron Chu
4. The job description submitted by the Hope Community CRC of Riverside as part of their call to Mr. Ron Glass to become a Commissioned Pastor was approved. (Synodical Deputy concurrence will be sought by the Stated Clerk.)
5. Approve the ordination of Joe Nasvytis as a Commissioned Pastor at the San Diego CRC.
- 1) The job description had been approved at the October 11, 2012 classis meeting.
 - 2) CET has received ecclesiastical testimonies from Classis Wisconsin and the Bethel CRC of Waupun, WI where he previously served. The chairman asked the Stated Clerk to read the testimonies.
 - 3) Joe was introduced by Rev. John Berends and also spoke briefly.
 - 4) Classis approved his ordination as a Commissioned Pastor in Cl. CA South
 - 5) Chairman Munoz presented Joe with the certificate and offered a prayer.
6. Classis considered the request of the Urim CRC to be transferred to Classis Pacific Hanmi. The request with its grounds as an overture to Synod was approved. See attachment #1.
7. Classical Executive Team recommended approval of Mario Perez and Joel Verhoef to three year terms as members of the Classical Executive Team. Classis approved.
8. Ballots for two regional representatives to denominational boards (CR World Missions and Back to God Ministries International) were distributed. Voting was done and ballots collected. The Stated Clerk will tally the results and report them to the CRCNA synodical office.
9. Election of minister and elder delegates and alternates to Synod 2013 took place with the following results:
- First minister delegate: Will Verhoef
 - Second minister delegate: Cor Pool
 - First minister alternate: John Harold Caicedo
 - Second minister alternate: Rick Kim

First elder delegate: John Jansen
Second elder delegate: Joel Verhoef
First elder alternate: LeeVale Butler
Second elder alternate: Dirk Jasperse

10. Jim Han, chairman of the Classical Executive Team, made a presentation. After his presentation and discussion which included remarks addressed in Korean to the Korean delegates as well as a group prayer, classis acted on the following:

- 1) Approval of the modified Vision, Mission, Values and ten-month strategic plan (See attachment #2)
- 2) Approved moving our meetings from Thursday evenings to Sunday afternoons and evenings for a trial period of one year starting with the May 2013 meeting. (Attachment #3 is a draft of what the meetings could look like.)

Rationale:

1. Expanding our time together would allow better opportunities for relationships to be built.
 2. Moving our meetings to Sundays would allow greater participation in the work of classis both for delegates from churches but also for church leaders and members.
 3. Starting earlier would allow us to address our goal of “making prayer and testimony significant parts of ... classis meetings.” (One of our strategic goals.)
 4. Starting earlier would allow us to address the goal of making time “for inspiration, information sharing, community-building.” (One of our strategic goals.)
 5. Distinguishing between portions of the meetings that are open to participation by anyone and portions that are official classis meetings allows for greater flexibility. For instance, reports from teams and functionaries of classis could be presented to a greater audience and bathed in prayer.
 6. In the opinion of several members of the Executive Team, Korean representation at classis meetings would be increased by moving the meetings to Sundays.
- 3) Approved that during the trial period classis meetings rotate among two or three centrally located churches of classis such as Orange Korean Church of Fullerton, Crosspoint CRC of Chino and Oasis Community CRC of Moreno Valley.

11. Reports

1) The Church Development Team submitted a written report, updating classis on the West Coast Regional Leadership and giving a progress report on the strategic goals that had been assigned to it. (Attachment #4)

2) Ron Chu, Faith Alive (the curriculum and publishing ministry of the Christian Reformed Church) board member reported that the board of Faith Alive Christian Resources would be dissolved effective June 30. In part it's because of a cash flow issue. It is also part of a proposed larger realignment of denominational ministries.

3) Classis approved the appointment of Jackie Vanden Bos as a new member and the renewal of Rev. John Seho Oh for a second term on the Church Development Team. Cor Pool and Phil Du Bois have completed their terms on the CDT, Phil for 15 years and Cor for 12 years. Both will continue to serve as advisors. Mr. Jim Den Ouden from San Marcos will become the new chairman for the CDT.

4) Pastor Al Breems extended an invitation to the delegates to a dedication service on Saturday, February 23 for the newly-completed worship center of the Oasis Community Church of Moreno Valley, CA. (I subsequently attended that service and had the opportunity to extend greetings on behalf of classis—WV)

12. Chairman Munoz adjourned the meeting, thanking the delegates for coming. He asked Will Verhoef to close with prayer.

Will Verhoef, Stated Clerk
Classis CA South

Attachment #1

Overture to Synod 2013

Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI
June 7-14, 2013

Overture: Permit the Transfer of Urim CRC of Lake Forest, CA to Classis Pacific Hanmi

Classis California South overtures synod to transfer the Urim CRC of Lake Forest, CA, pastored by Rev. Jong-Pil Oh, from Classis California South to Classis Pacific Hanmi. This transfer has been requested by the church and approved by both Classis California South and Classis Pacific Hanmi.

Ground: Belonging to Classis Pacific Hanmi will result in enhanced communication by minimizing the language barrier.

Classis California South
Will Verhoef, stated clerk

Attachment #2

Vision: "Classis California South is a diversified growing group of 50 outreaching, discipling and biblically based reformed churches by 2020 at least two thirds of which are organized churches."

Mission: As a classis, we are committed to three basic purposes: accountability, encouragement, and shared ministry for the churches of the classis.

Values

We value relationships and diversity within classis among leaders and members of our churches. It's the means of creating accountability and unity in the midst of diversity.

We value the local congregation. The primary place for ministry is in and through the local congregation.

We value a shared commitment to the Great Commission. Those congregations who desire to be part of this classis must have a passion for the "mission of God".

We value a shared commitment to the Reformed Faith. Those congregations who desire to be part of this classis must have a passion for and commitment to the historic doctrines of the Reformation.

We value efficiency and effectiveness. There is a commitment amongst the churches to avoid a burdening effect of bureaucracy and "busy work" by streamlining any and all teams in their work and reporting.

Ten Month Commitment (February-December 2013)

- 1. Make prayer and testimony significant parts of each of the next two classis meetings. Completion date: October 2013. Classis team assigned: Classis Prayer Team.**

2. **Include network events for inspiration, information sharing, community-building on the days of each classis meeting. Completion date: October 2013. Classis team assigned: Classis Executive Team.**
3. **A plan for a Classis Diaconal Team will be proposed to classis at its May 2013 meeting with a team established by the end of 2013. Classis Team assigned: Classis Executive Team.**
4. **Two new churches daughtered. Completion date: December 2013. Classis Team assigned: Church Development Team.**
5. **Create and implement a plan to train pastors, council members, staff, and lay leaders in the church to be mentors and teachers in the congregations and community. The plan includes providing references and resources on how to become discipling churches. Completion date: December 2013. Classis Team assigned: Classis Leadership Development Team.**
6. **Schedule visits with five churches to help them do an evaluation and share with them the resources so that those churches will become more externally focused. Completion date: December 2013. Classis Team assigned: Church Development Team.**

Attachment #3

**Proposed format for Sunday classis meetings
Portions would be open to any and all persons**

Change Time & Format of Meeting

Suggestion: Sundays 4-9 pm divided as follows

4-5 pm Praise, Prayer and Testimony time

5-6 pm. Small Group Educational/Informational meetings

Multiple offerings of @1 hour meetings that would appeal to various church personnel—
See attached list of possible topics

6-7 pm Dinner & Reporting

Dinner would be 30-45 minutes;
Reporting would be 15-30 minutes

7-9 pm Official Meeting

Requiring attendance of delegates/decision makers/board members
Ordination & Organizational issues

Possible Topics for Small Group Education/Informational meetings

Preaching/Worship

Resources for Preaching
Gathering of Pastors by racial groups—Anglo, Hispanic, Korean
Gathering of Pastors by size of church—Large, Sm-Med/Emerging
Praise Teams/Worship Directors
Prayer Groups

Financial Items

Basic Church Accounting for Churches & Fund Accounting Requirements
Housing Allowance from the Church's Perspective
Housing Allowance from the Pastor's Perspective
Special Situations—Stock/Property Donations; other
Ministry Shares—How & Why
Church Budget Comparisons

Other Topics

Protecting yourself from sexual abuse charges
Ushering and Welcome Ministry
Insurance Issues
Requested presentations by denominational representatives
Deacon training
Race Relations Workshops
Training pastors, council members, staff, and lay leaders in the church to be mentors and teachers in the congregations and community. (From the classis strategic plan)

Attachment #4

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT Classis CA South, February 21, 2012

West Coast Regional Leadership:

On January 21, 2013 Home Missions initiated a conversation for discernment with the West Coast Search Team, several church planters, and some key Classical leaders from the West Coast regarding a new configuration of regional leadership for the West Coast. We praise God for the faithful leadership of Arlan Vanden Bos who officially retired as Interim Regional Leader on December 31, 2012. Here are a few themes that emerged from that meeting:

1. Home Missions and Classical leaders both agreed that each classis must take greater and primary ownership in providing leadership and resources for its churches with Home Missions serving as a resourcing partner to classis.

2. A general agreement emerged that 5 part-time leaders, one from each classis, could better resource the unique challenges and opportunities of churches in each classis.
3. Each classis would decide what they desired in their leader and who would best serve in that capacity.

This pilot project will be an arrangement for 18-24 months. Classis and Home Missions will review and evaluate this new arrangement to discern effectiveness for the future of West Coast regional leadership and possibly in other Home Missions areas of the CRC.

A full report and proposal for this new regional leadership will be presented at our next Classis meeting in May.

Church Planting Goals:

We have two new potential church plants on the horizon. We are also looking at partnering with the RCA for future church plants in our region.

Visits with Five Churches:

Visits have been made with two churches already: San Diego, Trinity Fellowship and Fontana, Friendship Community. Both churches are interested in doing an assessment. Trinity has decided to postpone the assessment for the time being due to finances. Friendship will be doing an assessment sometime in May. All assessments now include contracting with a coach for a minimum of 6 months.

Serving Christ with You,
Cor Pool, Team Leader

