

Minutes (Second Edition 2/17/2014)
Classis California South
Sunday, February 9, 2014 4:00 p.m.
Location: Oasis Community CRC, Moreno Valley, CA
Chairman of the Day: Rev. Harold Caicedo
Vice Chairman: Mr. Gabe Colangelo
Stated Clerk: Will Verhoef

1. Chairman Harold Caicedo called the classis meeting to order. He welcomed all and thanked them for coming. He then introduced the praise team from Oasis which led in a time of singing and prayer.
2. Will Verhoef continued a time of prayer soliciting stories of times when the Spirit was seen working. He called on others to respond with prayers of praise and petition.
3. From 5-6 p.m. two breakout sessions were held. Al Breems led on the training of leaders—finding, growing and encouraging good leaders. Rudy Gonzalez and guest Rev. Lee De Leon led on the CRCNA and Latino Ministry--increasing awareness about the Latino population and factors that help grow congregations with a Latino appeal.
4. From 6-6:30 we shared a meal together.
5. Chairman Caicedo reconvened the meeting and called for the roll call.

The following Church Credentials were submitted.

Organized Churches

- 1) Chino, CrossPoint CRC: no representatives
- 2) Fontana, Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador: Harold Caicedo
- 3) Fullerton, Orange Korean CRC: no representatives
- 4) Fullerton, Faith Community: no representatives.
- 5) La Puente: Hanaro CRC: Pastor Sung Yang, Elder Kook, Deacon Chun
- 6) Las Vegas, Areumdawoon Church: Daewoo Park, Hye Sung, Chung Park
- 7) Las Vegas, Yung Kwang: no representatives.
- 8) Las Vegas, Grace Valley: no representatives
- 9) Moreno Valley, Oasis Community: Lee Johnson and Don Byker (seated by motion. See #7)
- 10) City of Orange, Korean American CRC of Orange County: no representatives
- 11) Redlands, The River CRC: Will Verhoef, Bill Dahlin, Mark Leonard
- 12) Riverside, Hope Community CRC: Cor Pool, Ron Glass, Jake Van Hofwegen
- 13) San Diego, Living Faith Community CRC: Joe Nasvytis, Kathy Amberson
- 14) San Diego, Trinity Fellowship CRC: Shirley Turner and Jack Griede
- 15) San Marcos, Crossroads CRC: Mark Vermaire, Gary Burrie, Henry Vander Pol
- 16) Santa Ana, Hmong CRC: no representatives
- 17) Tustin, First Harvest Chapel: no representatives
- 18) West Covina, Good News Chapel: Jim Han, Chris Moon, Byoung Oh
- 19) Westminster, Korean CRC of Orange County: Joshua Nam, Elder Cho, Deacon Kim

Emerging churches:

- 1) Laotian Vientiane, Moreno Valley, CA: no representatives
- 2) Sovereign Grace Community, Perris, CA: Gabe Colangelo, Robert Moore, Bob Johnson, Rudy Gonzalez
- 3) Friendship Community, Fontana, CA: no representatives
- 4) Crosspoint Chinese, Chino, CA: no representatives
- 5) International Church of Praise, Chula Vista, CA: no representatives
- 6) Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church, San Marcos, CA: Jose Balderas

With eleven of the nineteen organized churches represented, the chairman declared a quorum.

6. Eight first time delegates signed the Covenant of Officer-bearers.

7. A motion requesting that Rev. Don Byker be seated by way of exception as a delegate from Oasis Community CRC for this and future meetings of classis for the duration of his time of serving Oasis Church was made seconded and passed.

8. Chairman Caicedo welcomed guests. They include Jim Den Ouden, Mario Perez, Ron Chu, Mirtha Villafane, several members of the Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church of San Marcos and several members of the Areumdawoon Church.

9. The process of electing delegates and alternates to Synod 2014 was introduced by Will Verhoef. Voting continued throughout the meeting of classis with the following results:

First minister delegate: Ron Chu

Second minister delegate: Cor Pool

First minister alternate: Steve Wunderink

Second minister alternate: Joshua Nam

First elder delegate: Robert Moore (Sovereign Grace CRC, Perris, CA)

Second elder delegate: Dirk Jasperse (Crossroads, San Marcos, CA)

First elder alternate: Jose Balderas (Iglesia Camino al Cielo, San Marcos, CA)

Second elder alternate: Gabe Colangelo (Sovereign Grace, Perris, CA)

10. Two classical teams reported

a. Team Leader Jim Den Ouden reported for the Church Development Team. His report listed the current emerging churches. He mentioned that the West Coast Regional Ministry Team no longer exists and that funds for this ministry are now designated for the support of Pastor Ron Chu as Classis Ministry leader. Google Hangout discussions were held that included representatives of the five classes on the West Coast and CRC Home Missions and worked at launching a pilot project that has Classical Ministry Leaders for each of the five classes. CDT commitments for 2014 were listed (and incorporated into the classis commitments for 201--see #11). Finally we were encouraged to pray often for our emerging churches and their leaders. Cor Pool added a comment exhorting organized churches to consider planting churches.

b. Cor Pool reported for the Classis Candidacy Team and mentioned that there were two ministers currently ordained in other denominations who are going through the Church Order Article 8 process to become ordained in the CRCNA: Rev. Yi-Ming Kao of Crosspoint Chinese Church, Chino and Rev. Man Sub (Lewis) Kim currently serving as the Interim Pastor of Yung Kwang CRC, Las Vegas, NV.

11. Rev. Jim Han made a presentation on the classical commitments for 2014 that were being recommended by the Classis Executive Team. After the presentation, discussion and prayer (led by Mark Vermaire), classis approved the "commitments". (The letters in parenthesis after each commitment refers to the team or teams primarily responsible for getting it done!) They are:

a. Start one new church plant (CDT)

b. Support and partner with Ron Chu as our Classis Ministry Leaders (CET and CDT)

c. Draft a document reviewing the responsibilities for Parenting Churches and meet with our current Parent Church Councils to review and encourage. (CDT)

d. Train two coaches in our classis who can coach both established churches and emerging churches. (CDT)

e. Meet with two churches to help them do an evaluation and share with them the resources so that those churches will become more externally focused. (CDT)

f. Initiate a strategic planning process that pulls representatives of all of the teams together (to reduce overlap and increase effectiveness—reducing “silo” work), reviews work that has been done, reflects on the results of the Strategic Planning Classis Meeting of November 17, 2011 and recommends updated classical commitments for years going forward. (CET)

g. Prepare a Classis Performance Review to be presented at the first meeting of the year 2015. Review will include factors such as numbers of organized and emerging churches, financial and ministry share matters, parent churches and daughter churches, ethnicities of the churches, compared to recent history, comments on progress toward the annual commitments and other factors. (CET)

12. Reports of Classical Counselors

a. Rev. Mike Vander Pol for Oasis Community CRC, Moreno Valley was not present but several items on the credentials of Oasis Church were dealt with.

1) Oasis Council informs classis that Rev. Don Byker is serving the church as its Specialized Transitional Minister for a period of 9-12 months. Rev. Byker reported that Oasis Church still has a call to Rev. Breems as the Director of the classis Evangelism Training Program.

2) LeeVale Butler, a Commissioned Pastor with Oasis Church, is transitioning to ordination with the Salvation Army. The Oasis Council will make a full report and bring a recommendation to classis at its next meeting.

3) Oasis Council has learned that Rev. John Poortenga whose credentials it holds is no longer employed as a Hospice Chaplain. It will meet with Rev. Poortenga and then make a full report and recommendation to classis at its next meeting.

b. Rev. Mark Vermaire for Trinity Fellowship CRC, San Diego. He reported that while issues remain to be resolved about language and the situation, ‘on September 29, 2013 Jose Munoz did “step down” from pastoring the congregation of TFCRCC’ and is no longer functioning as pastor of the church (see later note about the status of his ordination); that there had been a number of members of the church who, along with Jose Munoz, are no longer worshipping with the members at the church building; and that Rev. Mark Vermaire and Rev. Cor Pool were working with both groups.

c. Mr. Phil Dubois for Yung Kwang CRC, Las Vegas, NV. Phil reported that things seemed to be going well with Rev. Lewis Kim and that he was in the process of moving through the process of becoming a Minister of the Word in the CRCNA via Church Order Article 8.

13. Rev. Jim Han, chairman of the Executive Team, presented for consideration two matters:

a. After a year of experimenting with Sunday classis meetings CET presented a choice between whether we continue meeting on Sundays or instead meet on Saturdays. After much discussion, a motion was made and supported that classis continue to meet on Sundays in the 4-9 p.m. timeframe at locations that are somewhat central geographically. The motion passed on a voice vote.

b. A motion that we reduce the number of annual meetings to two times instead of three. After a second of the motion and discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

14. Several items from the credentials were presented by the Stated Clerk:

a. From Crossroads CRC, San Marcos:

1) Elder Dirk Jasperse was nominated as delegate to Synod.

2) Crossroads CRC informed classis that it believed the Camino al Cielo CRC has fulfilled all of the requirements to establish a fully constituted Council. Because some necessary documents had not been submitted to classis, a motion was made and supported to empower the Executive Team to process the request for organization. Motion approved.

b. Hope Community CRC, Riverside, CA informed classis that Commissioned Pastor Andrew Holybee is no longer serving as Director of Youth Ministries at Hope Church as of December 31, 2013 to focus more time on his family. A motion was approved that concurred that Mr. Holybee is no longer a Commissioned Pastor in the CRCNA. (Supplement to Church Order Article 23-a)

c. From Trinity Fellowship CRC, San Diego, CA

1) TFCRC reported that on Sunday, September 29, 2013 Pastor Jose Munoz announced at the conclusion of the weekly worship service that it would be his final service as pastor of the church. On the credentials there was further reporting of what has subsequently happened concluding with: "The reality of this sad situation is that Mr. Munoz has, of his own accord, resigned his position and commission as pastor of Trinity Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. The church visitors from Classis California South concurred with the Council of TFCRC regarding this 'status assessment' at their joint meeting held on January 16, 2014." After some discussion, a delegate from TFCRC made a motion that in light of the fact that Mr. Jose Munoz is no longer the pastor of the church, his ordination as Commissioned Pastor in the CRC has ended. The motion was supported. Classis concurred by voice vote. (Church Order Article 23-a)

2) TFCRC, with thanks for the services of current Classical Counselor Rev. Mark Vermaire, requested that Rev. John Berends be appointed Classical Counselor in his place. Grounds: because Rev. Vermaire serves as a church visitor as well as the Classical Counselor, there is a "serious ongoing conflict of interest, one which is having a negative impact on our church." Classis did not act on that request but referred the matter to the CET which was instructed to appoint a Classical Counselor who would counsel both groups of members from TFCRC.

15. Chairman Harold Caicedo concluded the meeting with some appropriate remarks. He then invited the vice chairman Gabe Colangelo to pray—which he did.

Next Classis meeting will be scheduled by the Classis Executive Team in light of the decision to go to two meetings a year.

End notes: 1. The meeting adjourned @9 p.m. 2. There were a total of @60 people including delegates and visitors. 3. About 40 persons participated in the meal which was organized by Rudy Gonzalez and featured the cooking of Mrs. Bob Johnson assisted by several others. It was a delicious meal. 4. Early in the meeting I called attention to some documents that had been placed on the table and made available to delegates and visitors as they entered. Those documents included a letter from Rev. Henry Karsten announcing his and his wife's retirement as the region's Missions Mobilizers along with an attached document from CR World Missions detailing changes that have been made in missionary support. Other documents included my Stated Clerk's report, a report from our denominational Heritage Hall and one from our classis Church Development Team.

Will Verhoef, Stated Clerk

Classis CA South