

**Minutes**  
**Classis California South**  
**Sunday, May 19, 2013**  
**Location: Crosspoint CRC, Chino, CA**  
**Chairman of the Day: Elder Kyu Paek**  
**Vice Chairman: Cor Pool**  
**Stated Clerk: Will Verhoef**

Note from Stated Clerk: This is the first of three meetings when we meet on Sunday afternoons and evenings. Our hope was that Sundays would not only allow more folks besides delegates participate in classis activities but would also be more conducive to a longer time together (than Thursday evenings offered) that would allow for more praise, prayer and testimony time as well as time for training/educational opportunities. While we didn't provide those training opportunities at this meeting, we heard and prayed over a number of reports from local and denominational ministries. In addition, we enjoyed a meal provided not only by our host church (Crosspoint CRC, Chino) but also by Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Gonzalez and Rev. and Mrs. Yun Jin Kim. Our meeting on October 20, 2013 will be hosted by the Orange Korean Church, Fullerton. A count done during the evening revealed that @50-60 people participated in both the open time of praise, prayer and reporting as well as the official classis meeting that began at 7 p.m. What follows is a report not only of the official classis meeting but also the opening sessions that were held.

**From @4:00-5:00 p.m. We had a time of worship, praise and prayer.** . Rev. Jim Han, chairman of the Executive Team, led this part of our meeting. Our praise time was led by a praise team from our host church. Among those we heard from and prayed over were Yi-Ming Kao (Crosspoint Chinese Church), Harold Caicedo (El Sembrador Church), Sysay Vilaylack (Laotian Vientiane Church), Rudy Gonzalez (the Multi-ethnic Conference in June) and John Gonzales (The River CRC and his general health). We also heard a brief report concerning the Trinity Fellowship CRC, San Diego and prayed for that church and its Pastor Jose Munoz.

**From 5:10-6:00 p.m. We heard the following:**

- a. Safe Church presentation by Alicia Mannes. Alicia reported later in the evening at the classis meeting as well.
- b. Sea to Sea Bike Tour begins on June 22 @Newport Beach and ends on August 24 in New York City to raise funds to fight poverty. The opening celebration will be on Sunday, June 23 at 2pm on the campus of Vanguard University in Costa Mesa. Following the celebration at Vanguard will be a tire dipping ceremony at 4:30 pm at Newport Beach. Henry and Nancy De Jaeger, our local coordinators, hope for a number of ethnic pastors who could give the benediction in a multitude of languages. Let them know if you can make it: <henry.dejager@verizon.net>
- c. Our regional CRCNA Board member Mr. Kyu Paek gave a report on the recently held board meeting. One item he mentioned was that the final nominee for the CRC's Executive Director position who was about to be interviewed by the board and potentially presented to Synod withdrew his/her name at the last minute. So the search continues.
- d. Cor Pool and Will Verhoef did a quick review of classis' goals for 2013. We seem to be doing well and should meet those goals by the end of 2013. Praise God!
- e. Will Verhoef reported that CR World Missions is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of leading the denomination in working to fulfill the Great Commission.
- f. Will Verhoef reported that a final financial report for FY2012 has been delayed. Our treasurer has indicated that he hopes to get that completed by June 15.

**At 6 p.m. delegates and guests enjoyed a multi-ethnic meal including Korean, Mexican and “American” food.** Thanks to all who had a hand in arranging it.

**At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Kyu Paek calls the classis meeting to order.**

- a. Mr. Paek offered a prayer and then gave some opening comments.
- b. He invited the Stated Clerk to conduct a roll call of churches. The following are the results:

**c. Delegates from Organized Churches**

- 1) Chino, CrossPoint CRC: Tim Spykstra, Mike Wiersma, Mario Perez
- 2) Fullerton, Orange Korean CRC: no representatives
- 3) Fullerton, Faith Community: no representatives
- 4) Irvine, Urim CRC: no representatives
- 5) La Puente, Hanaro CRC: Jason Na
- 6) Las Vegas, Yung Kwang: no representatives
- 7) Las Vegas, Grace Valley: no representatives
- 8) Moreno Valley, Oasis Community: Jack Pavelich, LeeVale Butler
- 9) City of Orange, Korean American CRC of Orange County: no representatives
- 10) Redlands, The River CRC: Will Verhoef and Russ De Kock
- 11) Riverside, Hope Community CRC: Cor Pool , Doug Van Gent, Dan Switzer
- 12) San Diego, San Diego CRC: Joe Nasvytis
- 13) San Diego, Trinity Fellowship CRC: Jose Munoz, Frank Dowell
- 14) San Marcos, Crossroads CRC: Bill Stout, Tony Bons, Troy Brown
- 15) Santa Ana, Hmong CRC: no representatives
- 16) Tustin, First Harvest Chapel: no representatives
- 17) West Covina, Good News Chapel: Jimmy Han
- 18) Westminster, Korean CRC of Orange County: Kyu Paek

**Representatives from emerging churches:**

- 1) Laotian Vientiane, Moreno Valley, CA; Sysay Vilylack
- 2) Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrado, Fontana, CA: Harold Caicedo
- 3) Sovereign Grace Community, Perris, CA: none
- 4) Friendship Community, Fontana, CA: none
- 5) Crosspoint Chinese, 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 and Gabe Colangelo
- 9) Bethesda Church, Pomona, CA: none
- 10) Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church, San Marcos, CA: none

- d. A quorum was achieved and first time delegates signed the Covenant of Officer-bearers.
- e. Chairman Paek welcomed visitors. In particular, he invited Elder Jason Na of Hanaro CRC to introduce the new pastor of the church, Rev. Sung Pil Yang. Rev. Yang gave a few remarks. He has begun the process toward becoming a minister in the CRC via Article 8.

Rev. Mirtha Villafane was invited to give a report on the recently held “Fan the Flame” evangelistic conference—which she did.

- f. Cor Pool gave a presentation outlining recent developments in the area of West Coast Regional Leadership. Essentially what is being proposed is that instead of one West Coast Regional leader, there would be five leaders, one for each classis, working the equivalent of one day a week. CR Home Missions would cover the cost plus one halftime administrative assistant for the point leader. Accountability will be provided primarily by each classis (through its Church Development Team) mutually with Home Missions. Each classis would decide the particular focus of its Mission Leader. The Mission Leader for Classis CA South would Catalyze (church plant), Cluster (provide clusters of leaders) and Coach (put together a coaching system). This arrangement would be in place for 18 months after which it will be evaluated. (See Appendix A for details). **Cor moved that classis adopt the concept of regional leadership as outlined in the document. After discussion, the motion was approved.** Further questions were raised about the possibility of the Mission Leader working for more than one day a week by either sharing our Mission Leader with that of Classis GLA or funding it through our classis budget. Because there were certain financial implications that couldn’t be answered as well as work load questions, no firm answer could be given. Chairman Paek referred the matter to the Executive Team which was asked to investigate those possibilities.
  
- g. Alicia Mannes from our denominational Safe Church ministry made a presentation and distributed several documents. She urged the classis to establish a classis Safe Church Team possibly in cooperation with Classis GLA. She also advocated for each congregation to have a Safe Church policy in place. She pointed to resources available on the denominational website and offered to return at a later date to do the needed training. **After the presentation, Chairman Paek referred the matter to the Executive Team for further consideration and possible recommendations to a later classis meeting.**
  
- h. Joel Verhoef presented a plan for a classis Diaconal Team (in keeping with our classical goals for 2013). See Attachment B. **After discussion, Classis approved the plan.**
  
- i. Recommendations from the Classical Executive Team:
  - 1) Approve the nominations to Synod of Will Verhoef and Steve Wunderink for second three year terms as Synodical Deputy and Alternate Synodical Deputy. **Classis approved the recommendation.**
  - 2) Approve Phil duBois for an additional three year term on the Classical Church Development Team. **Classis approved the recommendation.**
  
- j. Classis was adjourned with some closing remarks and a prayer by Chairman Kyu Paek.

**Appendix A**  
**Spring Classis 2013**  
**West Coast Regional Leadership - A New Approach**

**Background**

West Coast Regional Leadership has been in a holding pattern for the last two years. Peter Holwerda served the West Coast well as Christian Reformed Home Missions Regional Leader for 25 years. At his retirement, Home Missions appointed Interim Regional Leader Arlan VandenBos who ably provided leadership through the West Coast Regional Ministry Team and developed communication with classical leaders as together we anticipated future transition. Arlan VandenBos retired on December 31, 2012. While regional ministry was in a holding pattern, Home Missions along with representatives from the regional ministry team and five classes engaged in a search process for new leadership.

Not simply assuming a single replacement for the interim regional leader, this group explored the present context of West Coast ministry to identify key values moving forward. Strong partnerships with classes and the local congregation will help focus resourcing local leaders & ministries in God's mission. A small team of regional leadership from local classes and congregations can more effectively represent local ministry needs and network in flexible ways to keep us faithful together in carrying out the mission. This "more local" value has been increasingly expressed by classes and church leaders as well as desired by Home Missions.

**Converging Themes**

On January 21, 2013 Home Missions initiated a conversation for discernment to bring these values together in a new configuration of regional leadership for the West Coast. Several themes converged from this dialog.

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.
4. Partnerships with mutual ministry ownership will promote local leaders and ministry development and help us learn creative new ways for practicing covenant accountability.
5. We believe in the growing sense of being led by the Spirit through reflection to learn new ways of doing ministry instead of simply relying on well-thought structures to carry us forward in ministry.

**Role Description of Personnel**

Regional leadership will serve with a missional priority that seeks to focus all ministry on fully and obediently engaging in the mission of God. The primary emphasis in leadership will be the

local church and her leaders, both established and emerging churches. (Please see the role description of the Classical Mission Leader - complementary to this document.)

### **Administration**

1. 5 leaders (1 per classis chosen by classis) with one also acting as point leader. Each works 20% (1 day/ week equivalent) and CRHM covers this cost plus 1 halftime administrative assistant for the point leader.
2. Accountability provided primarily by each classis and mutually with CRHM.
3. Classes, along with the 5 leaders and the WCRMT, will determine the most effective way to utilize and support the ministry of the WCRMT in the future.

### **Time Frames and Action Steps for Implementation**

The target time for having regional leadership of 5 leaders from 5 classes in place is by December 31, 2013. It is hoped that classes will complete this process earlier, to coincide with the beginning of a new ministry year. Below are action steps for Home Missions and classes to begin now:

1. Classis dialogs about, reviews and adopts the concept of regional leadership.
2. Classis through CHMC or equivalent determines local needs and recommends its candidate for CRHM to endorse.
3. Process begins now aiming for completion by December 31, 2013.

### **Pilot Project**

This experimental approach 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.

## **CLASSICAL MISSION LEADER\***

### **West Coast Region**

\*Current working position name

#### **A. Role Description:**

##### **1. Networking**

- a. Support and resource Clusters, LEAD teams and enhance relationships among established & emerging church leaders
- b. Promote ethnic relationships among leaders, established churches and emerging churches.
- c. Identify, recruit and equip emerging younger leaders.
- d. Develop relationships with other Classical Mission Leaders of West Coast region for resourcing our mission.
- e. Enhance the partnership between local congregations, Classis, and Christian Reformed Home Missions, and where applicable, explore new relationships with the RCA for the purpose of possible mutual missional engagement.

##### **2. Catalyze and Resource Church Revitalization and Church Planting**

- a. Provide coaching for church planters, leaders of established and emerging church leaders, and parent churches.
- b. Provide coaching, assessments and mission mapping for church renewal
- c. Promote and train for multiplication. Help churches experience harvest joy through planting another congregation.
- d. Identify, recruit and train new leaders for new missional communities and churches

##### **3. Facilitate a Missional Culture in Classis & the Churches**

- a. Promote a climate of prayer for the Classis and local mission
- b. Promote, protect and encourage emerging churches and their leaders within classis by developing strong supportive links between established and emerging congregations.
- c. Provide support systems for launching church plants, campus ministries, and revitalizing churches. This includes best practices learned in recent regional mission starts and rebirths. This includes assistance in navigating state, federal and denominational requirements.
- d. Develop a network of trained coaches for Classis
- e. Work alongside classical structures to encourage classical renewal and mission momentum.

##### **4. Develop Funding Resources**

- a. Encourage expanding financial support between established churches and emerging churches .

- b. Provide fund development training together with Christian Reformed Home Missions, and possibly other classes in the West Coast region, for church planters, and leaders of other missional communities.
- c. Discover new funding sources and develop with local churches and classis.

## 5. Specific Classical Needs Related to Mission for Classis California South

- a. Catalyze – church planting.
- b. Cluster – provide clusters of leaders.
- c. Coach – put together a coaching system.

## B. Requisite Qualifications and Skills:

### *Qualifications*

- **Heart for the lost:** A heart for the lost and a passion to reach people with the Gospel and be part of the gospel movement of God
- **Mature:** Mature in faith; humble listener and learner. Enables other leaders and yearns to see them flourish.
- **Demonstrated fruitfulness:** Significant fruit in church multiplication and renewal in mission shaped ministry
- **Catalytic / visionary leader:** A, visionary, apostolic leader who can catalyze vision in others; flexible and a non-anxious presence amidst diversity and ambiguity.
- **Trust Builder:** Relationally trusted bridge builder; loves engaging in dynamic church context
- **Embraces Diversity:** Have a multicultural vision and a passion to embrace and enhance diversity. Multi-cultural experience and savvy that is able to work with diverse cultures.

### *Skills*

- **Strategic / Vision Mobilizer:** Strategic thinker who understands systems and how to build them through practical next steps. Manage ambiguity of transitions and change. Engage theological visioning with practical structuring.
- **Team Builder / Coach:** Works through teams; demonstrated ability to relationally teach, encourage and coach individuals and teams. Able to lead in the “next generation” environment
- **Networker / Collaborator:** Collaborative leadership skills to lead diverse groups toward synergy, significant consensus and communal identity. Can connect with and build the classical network.
- **Communicator:** Effective communicator - able to inspire; develops communication networks and influences through them; Demonstrated skill/ability to build support (financial and emotional) for the kingdom; has a vision to connect people via technology.

## Appendix B: Proposal for a Classis Diaconal Team

### Rationale:

**Church order 75b:** “The classes shall, whenever necessary, assist the churches in their ministry of mercy. The classes themselves may perform this ministry when it is beyond the scope and resources of the local churches. To administer this task, each classis shall have a classical diaconal committee.”

**2013 Classis California South Strategic plan:** “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.”

**Deacon survey performed by the CET at the end of 2012:** Makes clear that deacons in Classis California South desire more equipping and support.

### Scope:

To **inspire, educate, and coach** those serving as deacons in Classis California South member churches.

### Membership:

Pastoral advisor, World Renew Delegate, and 2 to 5 additional members whose qualifications are:

- 1) They are currently a deacon in a Classis California South church or involved in diaconal type ministry as defined by church order article 25c:
  - i. “The deacons shall represent and administer the mercy of Christ to all people, especially to those who belong to the community of believers, and shall stimulate the members of Christ’s church to faithful, obedient stewardship of their resources on behalf of the needy—all with words of biblical encouragement and testimony which assure the unity of word and deed..
- 2) The council of the church which they hold membership has approved their name to be available for membership to this committee.

Members of this committee serve 3 year terms. Initially CET will appoint this committee but in future years classis will approve by vote new members who have volunteered and meet the above mentioned qualifications. This team shall represent the diversity of our classis.

### Timeline:

This team is to have developed an action plan and making steps to implement the action plan by the October Classis meeting.

