

**Minutes**  
**Classis California South**  
**<http://www.faithwebsites.com/classiscaliforniasouth/>**  
**Thursday, October 11, 2012 7:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Oasis Community CRC, Moreno Valley, CA**  
**Chairman of the Day: Pastor Al Breems**  
**Vice Chairman: Pastor Jose Munoz**  
**Stated Clerk: Will Verhoef**

1. The meeting of classis had been preceded by a prayer summit that included praise and worship, extended times of prayer, corporate prayer, and reflection on the vision, mission, values, and plans that were being presented to classis. Chairman Al Breems began the meeting with the showing of a video and then offering prayer.
2. Pastor Al Breems calls the meeting to order and asks the Stated Clerk to call the roll—which he does.
  - a. Roll call showed the following churches represented:

**Delegates from Organized Churches**

- 1) Chino, CrossPoint CRC: Tim Spykstra
- 2) Fullerton, Orange Korean CRC: none
- 3) Fullerton, Faith Community: none
- 4) Irvine, Urim CRC: none
- 5) La Puente: Hanaro CRC: none
- 6) Las Vegas, Yung Kwang: none
- 7) Las Vegas, Grace Valley: none
- 8) Moreno Valley, Oasis Community: Al Breems, LeeVale Butler
- 9) City of Orange, Korean American CRC of Orange County: John Seho
- 10) Redlands, The River CRC: Will Verhoef, Brian Distelberg, Darrell Donowho
- 11) Riverside, Hope Community CRC: Cor Pool, Doug Van Gent, Allan Engelauf
- 12) San Diego, San Diego CRC: John Barends, Donald Boss
- 13) San Diego, Trinity Fellowship CRC: Jose Munoz, Frank Dowell, Frances Kelley
- 14) San Marcos, Crossroads CRC: Mark Vermaire, Jim Beezhold, Gordon Geerdes
- 15) Santa Ana, Hmong CRC: none
- 16) Tustin, First Harvest Chapel: none
- 17) West Covina, Good News Chapel: Jimmy Han, Daniel Chang
- 18) Westminster, Korean CRC of Orange County: Seongsoo Nam, Kyu Paek

Because there was no quorum (the majority of the organized churches were not represented) at the beginning of the meeting (the delegates from the Korean American CRC of Orange County, City of Orange and the Korean CRC of Orange County, Westminster came late in the meeting because of freeway flooding), the chairman entertained a motion that classis proceed with its business without a quorum. That motion passed. Later, as the meeting progressed and the tardy delegates arrived, the chairman made the point that classis had achieved a quorum.

**Representatives from emerging churches:**

- 1) Laotian Vientiane, Moreno Valley, CA; Sysay Vilaylack
- 2) Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrado, Fontana, CA; Harold Caicedo
- 3) Sovereign Grace Community, Perris, CA: Bob Moore
- 4) Friendship Community, Fontana, CA: none
- 5) Holy Family Church, Chino, CA: none
- 6) International Church of Praise, Chula Vista, CA:
- 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 for Officebearers in CRC.
3. Chairman Al Breems welcomed the synodical deputies and a number of guests.
- a. Synodical deputies were: Rev. George Vink (Classis Central CA), Rev. Harry Weidenaar (Classis Arizona), and Rev. Gary Stevens (Classis Greater Los Angeles). Note: Rev. Stevens arrived late because of the freeway flooding.
  - b. Betty Grit, Manager, Worship Renewal Grants Program, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.
  - c. Eudell Vis (member of Hope Community CRC of Riverside and the new DRS (Disaster Response Services) area representative.
  - d. Henry De Jager representing the Sea to Sea event .
  - e. Joel Verhoef, classis board member of World Renew (formerly CRWRC).
  - f. Candidate Glenn Adams who would be examined at the meeting.
  - g. Several other guests that the chairman acknowledged and welcomed.

4. The revised vision, mission, and values and eighteen month plan (see Addendum #1) which was tabled from the May classis meeting was placed before the delegates.
  - a. Will Verhoef made a brief presentation giving the background and making comments about how the document was developed. He pointed out that some of the timelines would need to be adjusted because of the five month delay in approving the 18-month plan.
  - b. An amendment was made and supported that the document be approved in concept. Discussion revealed that not only would the timelines need to be adjusted but that further work could be done on the definition of the role of classis. The Executive Team would be expected to take the lead in continuing to do that work. The amendment passed.
  - c. The main motion then was approved.
  - d. A motion passed asking the Executive Team to clarify the purpose and function of classis vis-à-vis the West Coast Ministry Team with respect to the vision, mission, and values that have been adopted in concept.
5. Candidate Glenn Adams was examined for the office of Minister of the Word in the CRC. A note was read from Classical Counselor Scott Elgersma reporting that all was in order with the letter of call. Glenn was introduced by Al Breems. Tim Spykstra examined Glenn in practica; John Gonzales gave the sermon evaluation on behalf of himself and Will Verhoef; Harold Caicedo led in the examination of Glenn's biblical and theological position. Classis voted to admit Glenn Adams to the ministry of the Word in the CRCNA. The synodical deputies concurred. Chairman Breems presented Glenn with the classical diploma and offered prayer for Glenn and his wife and son. Opportunity was given for the delegates to extend congratulations to the Adams'.
6. The San Diego CRC presented a Commissioned Pastor job description. Rev. John Berends explained that the church was extending a call to a Commissioned Pastor to become the Lead Pastor of the San Diego Church but that he would be staying on as the ordained minister of the

Word. Classis approved the job description and the synodical deputies concurred.

7. Chairman Al Breems thanked the synodical deputies for their work as they left.
8. Jose Munoz, one of the minister delegates to Synod 2012, gave a brief report about Synod 2012.
9. Several reports were given.
  - a. Betty Grit reported on the availability of Worship Renewal Grants and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.
  - b. Henry and Nancy De Jager spoke about next summer's Sea to Sea Bicycle Tour and distributed materials about it. They encouraged congregations to support the team and invited cyclists to participate. The goal of the tour is to raise awareness of and work to end poverty. The tour starts in southern California. Its first stop will be in Redlands.
  - c. Joel Verhoef reported on the name change of CRWRC to World Renew and showed a video about its work.
  - d. Eudell Vis introduced himself as the area World Renew Disaster Recovery Services representative and described the work he will be doing: providing organizational support for longer and short term volunteers who are assigned to help communities recover from disasters.
  - e. Will Verhoef had previously submitted written reports on his work as Stated Clerk and the work of the Classical Executive Team. These reports were approved.
8. Classical Treasurer David De Koekkoek reported on his work and presented the Classical Budget for FY2013.
  - a. Dave referenced copies of a slightly revised financial report for FY 2011.
  - b. Dave referenced the report of the Classical Finance Team and pointed to several serious issues classis is facing: 1. available cash flow has steadily declined to the point that current obligations can no longer be

paid in a timely fashion, 2. Income and participation by the churches has declined to the lowest point in the last 20 years, 3. While the classis loan fund has a sizeable balance, it is a restricted fund and cannot be tapped unless classis so decides, 4. Classis has five operating funds which are budgeted for each year. Some of the funds have reserves and some have negative balances. 5. The denomination has steadily reduced its financial support of three of the programs: Evangelist Training Program, Hispanic Ministry Developer and West Coast Church Resourcing.

c. Dave reported that classis is committed to fulfilling our 2012 budgeted obligations and that the Executive Team recommended the following for the 2013 budget: 1. that support for on-going programs not be reduced, 2. That we seek to encourage greater participation in the paying of ministry shares, 3. That we use interest from the Loan Fund to help balance the budget, 4. That the increase in per member ministry share be less than 3%.

d. In light of the above information, classis approved the following: 1. That a study be made to seek alternative funding for one or more of the following programs of classis by the beginning of 2015: Camp Dunamis, Seminary Student Support, Hispanic Ministry Developer, Evangelist Training Program, New Church Development, West Coast Church Resourcing. 2. Increase the per member share amount by \$1.14 to \$42.61, a 2.75% increase. 3. That a balanced budget be presented by including both current and accumulated interest from the General Fund and Loan Fund of \$7500. 4. That any shortages in ministry shares income for both 2012 and 2013 be taken from accumulated Loan Fund interest (\$30,000). 5. That the current negative balances in the operating funds be paid from accumulated Loan Fund Interest (\$25,000) (See complete report in Appendix #2.)

e. Dave presented the budget for FY2013 totaling \$84,500 with a per member share of \$42.61. The budget was approved by classis. See Classis CA South website

**(<http://www.faitbsites.com/classiscaliforniasouth/>)**  
for the complete approved budget.

f. Dave announced in his report that he plans to retire (after 20 years of being the classical treasurer) at the end of 2013. So the search is on for his replacement.

9. The Council of The River CRC of Redlands, CA presented a request for the emeritation of Rev. John Gonzales effective July 1, 2013. Reason: health. After comments by Will Verhoef and John Gonzales the request was approved.

10. Chairman Al Breems announced the adjournment of classis and asked Will Verhoef to offer a closing prayer particularly for John Gonzales but also our classis and the challenges it faces.

Will Verhoef, Stated Clerk

Classis CA South

## **Appendix #1**

**(Adopted in concept on Oct. 11, 2012)**

New Vision: "Classis California South is a diversified growing group of 50 outreaching, discipling and biblically based reformed churches by 2020."

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

### **Revised 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.

### **Eighteen Month Commitment (July 2012-December 2013)**

- 1. Make prayer and testimony significant parts of each of the next three classis meetings. Completion date: May 2013. Classis team assigned: Classis Prayer Team.**
- 2. One network event scheduled for inspiration, information sharing, community-building. Completion date: December 2012. Classis team assigned: Classis Executive Team.**
- 3. A plan for a Classis Diaconal Team will be proposed to classis at its October 2012 meeting with a team established by the end of 2012. 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: September 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.**

## **Appendix #2 Report from Classical Finance Team**

# **Special Report from the Finance Committee of CLASSIS CALIFORNIA SOUTH of the CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH September 25, 2013**

### **Reason for Special Report**

This is a special report prepared by the Classical Treasurer and Finance Committee. During the last five years the operating funds have had deficits totaling c. \$57,000. The circumstances and trends of our Classis operating funds required a special review and recommendations to Classis regarding the continuing viability of our operating funds.

### **The Current Problem—There is no operating money!**

In order to cash flow our budgeted expenses each year, we need a total balance of c. \$50,000 in these accounts since a large portion of income is received after the end of the year for the prior year, well after the funds need to be paid out. At the end of 2011 we had c. \$34,000 and it could decline to less than \$17,000 by the end of 2012. This will make it impossible for us to meet our obligations in a timely manner, if at all.

For the present, Classis Executive Team (CET) has decided that we need to meet our budgeted obligations for 2012 and not reduce program support in 2013. To do this there are three options:

1. Increase ministry share income by increasing the participation level or increasing the share amount per member.
2. Encourage churches to take up special offerings for specific programs.
3. Borrow or appropriate funds from the Loan Fund.

### **Evaluation of the three options**

1. Increasing ministry share income
  - a. Increasing participation is by far the most feasible solution; however, the participation rate has varied from 50% to 72% over the last 20 years. For

the 2011 year, we decreased the per member amount by over 5% (back to the 2005 rate) hoping to increase participation. The participation rate for 2011 fell to the lowest in the past 20 years. So we know that lowering the rate significantly does not change the participation rate. Unless there are other changes made, we do not anticipate a significant change in the participation rate.

- b. For 2012, the per member rate was raised to account for a lower participation rate. Unless there is a significant increase in the last quarter, it appears that our income for 2012 will be similar to that of 2011—c. \$49,000.
  - c. Over the last ten years, ministry share income has ranged from c. \$49,000 to \$70,500, averaging c. \$61,000.
  - d. Realistically, we do not believe it wise to expect significantly more ministry share income than we have had in the past several years.
2. Encourage churches to take up special offerings for specific programs.
    - a. There is a limited amount of this happening already, but this is largely an unknown factor for budgeting purposes. We believe this avenue should be developed, and we would encourage churches and program leaders to consider this avenue of support.
  3. Borrow or appropriate funds from the Loan Fund.
    - a. Restricted funds are exactly that. They are to be used only for the purpose for which they have been designated. The Loan Fund was so designated by Classis action on July 18, 1985. Only the donor, or supervising body if there is no clear donor, can remove the restriction. Borrowing from restricted funds is what gets individuals and institutions at all levels in trouble because spending more than your income becomes a habit very easily. *Deficit spending has been the pattern for Classis for the past five years.* Two more and we will have reached the same number of bad years Joseph had to deal with in Egypt. Joseph, however, had a distinct advantage over us—He knew there would only be seven bad years, and he had seven good years to prepare for it. We are heading into our sixth bad year with only two good years in the previous seven years to prepare for it. And we are not optimistic about the next several years.
    - b. The original source of the loan fund goes back to the division of classis in 1989 that made Classis GLA a separate classis. Although I cannot document it, the funds were the result of some accumulation of funds and the sale of some property owned by classis. The original amount in 1989 was \$134,000+. Over the years a number of loans were made and savings rates were good, so the fund grew consistently to its current balance of just under \$329,000. (For the historical buffs, the sale of the Otay Mesa property for \$156,000 in 1993 was all designated to and used by the Church Development Fund.)

- c. In the mid to late 1990's some of the interest was used to balance the budget with the approval of Classis.
- d. In our current situation there is little choice but to use Loan Fund monies. However, we want to be very clear about this, the amounts involved and some safeguard actions. Also, we recommend strongly that Classis begin preparing for changes that will have to be made if income does not increase significantly. Accordingly, we have prepared a set of recommendations to be included with the budget. See end of report.

## **Overview and Background of Classis Funds**

Classis has five operating funds which are budgeted for each year:

- Operating Fund
- Student Fund
- Home Missions (including Hispanic Ministry Developer & Evangelist Training Program)
- Church Development
- West Coast Church Resources

Some of these funds have reserves and some have a negative balance. Since the income and expenditures in these five categories are approved by classis as a whole; those with a positive reserve temporarily lend funds to those funds that are in a deficit. Historically, this has not been a problem, but two things have changed in our budget over the last ten years that have made it more difficult to balance our budget.

1. With the help of the denomination and Classis GLA, three on-going programs (Evangelist Training Program, Hispanic Ministry Developer and West Coast Church Resourcing) have been initiated with fixed costs for our classis of c \$42,000.
2. The denomination has steadily reduced its financial support of these programs from \$30,000 per year to \$6,000 per year over the last several years leaving our Classis and Classis Greater Los Angeles (GLA) and us to pick up the difference.

Classis also has a restricted Loan Fund with a balance of c. \$329,000 at the end of 2011. Approximately \$70,000 of this is currently loaned out to churches. The remaining c. \$260,000 is in savings accounts and a promissory note. We are currently earning c. 1.0% on these funds, which means our interest income is declining.

## **Retirement of Treasurer**

It is the treasurer's intent to retire from office at the end of 2013. We recommend that a search for a new treasurer begin immediately and that the new person be appointed as assistant treasurer for 2013. In 2014, the assistant treasurer would become the treasurer, and the current treasurer would be willing to serve as assistant treasurer. After 2014, he may graduate to the finance committee.

## Recommendations to be included with the Proposed Budget

Classis is committed to fulfilling our 2012 budgeted obligations, and the CET has made the following recommendations for the 2013 budget.

1. That support for on-going programs not be reduced.
2. That we seek to encourage greater participation in the paying of ministry shares.
3. That we use interest from the Loan Fund to help balance the budget.
4. That the increase in per member ministry share be less than 3%.

Considering these guidelines and the information above, we recommend the following.

1. That a study be made to seek alternative funding for one or more of the following programs of Classis by the beginning of 2015.

a. Camp Dunamis	\$ 3,000 per year
b. Seminary Student Support	\$10,000 per year
c. Hispanic Ministry Developer	\$15,500 per year
d. Evangelist Training Program	\$11,500 per year
e. New Church Development	\$10,000 per year
f. West Coast Church Resourcing	\$15,000 per year
2. Increase the per member share amount by \$1.14 to \$42.61, a 2.75% increase.
3. That a balanced budget be presented by including both current and accumulated interest from the General Fund and Loan Fund. (\$7,500)
4. That any shortages in ministry shares income for both 2012 and 2013 be taken from accumulated Loan Fund interest. (\$30,000)
5. That the current negative balances in the operating funds be paid from accumulated Loan Fund Interest. (\$25,000)

Respectfully submitted,



David De Koekkoek, Treasurer



Cor Pool, Finance Committee Member



Gordon Swangel, Finance Committee Member



Gary Zondervan, Finance Committee Member

