

Minutes

Classis California South

Sunday, October 19, 2014 4:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location: Orange Korean CRC, Fullerton, CA

Chairman of the Day: Pastor Gabe Colangelo

Vice Chairman: Pastor Mark Vermaire

Stated Clerk: Will Verhoef

1. Chairman Gabe Colangelo called the classis meeting to order and introduced himself. He offered a prayer.
2. Faith Community CRC's Praise Band led in the singing of three songs.
3. An extended prayer time was led by Pastor Gabe Colangelo. We prayed as the following ministries were presented and reported on:
 - a. CRC's Back to God Ministries International which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Region 6 Board Member Mrs. Allison Libolt Renkema from Visalia, CA reported.
 - b. Rudy Gonzalez reported on behalf of the Classis Church Development Team (CDT) which he now chairs. He referenced a covenant that the CDT has developed which encourages churches to initiate church plants and lays out a process for that. Later in the meeting Rudy reported that Rev. Al Breems has stepped away from involvement with the CDT, that Jose Munoz's term as a member of the team has concluded and that Rev. Ray Hommes has concluded his coaching work with Friendship Community Church in Fontana.
 - c. Mirtha Villafane, the regional Hispanic Ministry Developer, reported on her work particularly with the seminary level training that is being led by Rev. Harold Caicedo at his church, El Sembrador in Fontana.
 - d. Charles Kim introduced himself as the Korean Ministry Coordinator and Ethnic Ministry Leader with Christian Reformed Home Missions. He replaces Rev. Tong Park who retired recently. Charles promoted the Glocal Conference that will be held in November at TtoKamsa Mission Church, Los Angeles, CA.
 - e. Joel Verhoef, World Renew Board member for Classis CA South gave a report and distributed world maps showing where World Renew does ministry.
 - f. Eudell Vis, the local Disaster Response Services Coordinator with World Renew, reported on the resources provided by DRS including potential youth mission trips arranged by DRS.
 - g. Rev. Sid Sybenga from Classis GLA gave a presentation on Timothy Leadership Training which has great potential for training leaders in the local church.
 - h. Chairman Colangelo invited prayers after each presentation. He then offered a prayer for the meal being provided by the host church. Delegates and guests recessed for dinner.
4. Chairman Colangelo reconvened the meeting with prayer as well as a brief introduction of himself, Vice-chairman Mark Vermaire and Stated Clerk Will Verhoef. He then asked the Stated Clerk to conduct the roll call. What follows is the result of the roll call.

Organized Churches

- 1) Chino, CrossPoint CRC: John Voortman, Al Vander Ploeg and Michele Bennet

- 2) Fontana, Iglesia Cristiana El Sembrador: Harold Caicedo, Manuel Aguilar and Roberto Quinones
- 3) Fullerton, Orange Korean CRC: Yun Jin Kim and Eric Suh
- 4) Fullerton, Faith Community: no representatives
- 5) La Puente: Hanaro CRC: no representatives
- 6) Las Vegas, Areumdawoon Church: no representatives
- 7) Las Vegas, Yung Kwang: Lewis Kim
- 8) Las Vegas, Grace Valley: no representatives
- 9) Moreno Valley, Oasis Community: Rudy Gonzalez
- 10) City of Orange, Korean American CRC of Orange County: John Seho Oh
- 11) Redlands, The River CRC: Scott Elgersma and Don Bueermann
- 12) Riverside, Hope Community CRC: Cor Pool, Bill Henry and Mike Frizelle
- 13) San Diego, Living Faith Community CRC: John Palmer and Joe Nasvytis
- 14) San Diego, Trinity Fellowship CRC: no representatives
- 15) San Marcos, Crossroads CRC: Mark Vermaire, Bill Stout and Trena Boonstra
- 16) San Marcos, Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church: Jose Balderas and Benjamin Lopez
- 17) Santa Ana, Hmong CRC: no representatives
- 18) Walnut, Good news Chapel: Byoung Oh, Young Bin Baeg and Jimmy Han
- 19) Westminster, Korean CRC of Orange County: Sung-Soo Nam and Kyu Paek

Emerging churches:

- 1) Laotian Vientiane, Moreno Valley, CA: Sysay Vilaylack
- 2) Sovereign Grace Community, Perris, CA: Gabe Colangelo
- 3) Friendship Community, Fontana, CA: no representatives
- 4) Crosspoint Chinese, Chino, CA: no representatives
- 5) International Church of Praise, Chula Vista, CA: no representatives.

With 13 of the 19 organized churches represented, a quorum was declared. Delegates from the Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church of San Marcos were recognized because of the church's recent organization. Delegates applauded.

Rev. Sysay Vilaylack was invited to give a brief report on work he has been doing in training church leaders and building churches as he regularly travels back to his home country of Laos.

5. Seven first time delegates signed the Covenant of Officer-bearers.
6. Chairman Colangelo welcomed guests as well as the three Synodical Deputies: Rev. John Greydanus (Classis Red Mesa), Rev. Bruce Persenaire (Classis Central CA) and Erick Westra (Classis GLA).
7. The Chairman invited the Stated Clerk to present the report from the Executive Team. A number of items were presented. (See the following minutes.)
8. CET reported on the release of Rev. Tim Spykstra as Senior Pastor of Crosspoint CRC. It appointed as Church Visitors Rev. Scott Elgersma and Rev. Ron Chu. It received their report and also received the separation agreement duly signed by Rev. Spykstra and the officers of the Church Council. CET appointed Scott Elgersma as Classical Counselor for Crosspoint CRC. **CET recommends the approval of the separation agreement according to Church Order Article 17-a.** Motion was seconded. Discussion followed. It

included a report from the elders of Crosspoint CRC and from Church Visitor and Classical Counselor Scott Elgersma. The CET reported that it was withdrawing a recommendation that Pastor Tim Spykstra receive evaluation before being declared eligible for a call again. It did this after hearing from several persons with whom Tim has had significant conversations. Some of those were read. It was also noted that the CET was not recommending stipulations for the church since the Crosspoint Council was doing the work required to prepare it to call its next senior pastor. An amendment was offered and supported which would stipulate that Crosspoint CRC would not be permitted to call a pastor until May 11, 2015 and in the meantime walk through a process of healing and discerning God's will for them. The chairman eventually ruled the amendment out of order because it would have substantially changed the main motion. **After further discussion, the chairman called for a vote on the main motion. It passed. The Synodical Deputies concurred.** They added the following note in their report to synod: "We take note that not all provisions of the Church Order were followed (i.e. employing the advice of the Regional Pastor). We encourage the CET to monitor the progress of the Crosspoint Church in its next chapter and Rev. Tim Spykstra in becoming eligible for a call."

9. Commissioned Pastor Bob Moore moved to Oasis Church from Sovereign Grace Church. The CET received a job description from Oasis Church for his new position. **CET recommends approval of the job description. That was seconded. The motion passed. The Synodical Deputies concurred.**
10. CET recommended waiving the examination requirement since he was examined in 2004 in our classis for a similar position. **Classis approved.**
11. CET received a letter from Commissioned Pastor LeeVale Butler indicating that he is ready to move on to his calling with the Salvation Army. Oasis Elders have accepted this letter and passed it along for processing at the classis meeting. **CET recommends that classis acknowledge the termination of Mr. Butler's ordination as a Commissioned Pastor in the CRC in accordance with Church Order Article 23-a. Classis approved the recommendation.**
12. When Iglesia Camino al Cielo Church became organized, Commissioned Pastor Jose Balderas moved into a position where he leads an organized church instead of an emerging church. Church Order 23-b applies. After conversations with Dr. Henry De Moor who is our denominational Church Order expert, **CET recommends that a "reasonable time of transition" be set at two years. Classis approved.**
13. First Harvest Chapel of Tustin, CA "closed" last spring. Members from there joined with another congregation that closed; together they formed a new independent congregation. According to Church Order Article 38-d "when a council and congregation decide to disband...the approval of classis is required." **CET recommends approval.**

Classis approved. The ministerial credentials of Rev. Rick Kim have been received by Good New Chapel, Walnut, CA

14. Rev. DaeWoo Park of Las Vegas and his church, Areumdawoon CRC, Las Vegas, have applied for a building loan from the CRC Loan Fund in the amount of \$530,000 to transform a large home into their worship center. For the loan to be approved, it needs the endorsement of classis. Our classis treasurer David De Koekkoek has examined the loan and recommends its endorsement. **The CET recommends that classis endorse the loan application. Classis approved.**
15. Will Verhoef reported on the following actions/decisions of the CET.
 1. After classis gave tentative approval last February for the organization of Camino al Cielo CRC pending the receipt of the required documents, the executive team received those documents and gave approval at its August 14 meeting. Supervising church Crossroads CRC, San Marcos, had a service of celebration on Sunday, August 24, 2014.
 2. CET approved Ray Hommes as Classical Counselor for Oasis Church as it seeks its next Senior Pastor.
 3. Mario Perez Jr. was approved for a three-year term on the Church Development Team.
 4. Mr. Bob Moore was approved for a three-year term on the Church Development Team.
 5. Phil Du Bois was approved for an additional three year term on the Classis Executive Team.
 6. Kyu Paek declined to be nominated for an additional three year term on the CET. He cited a busy work schedule as well as other church-related commitments (Elder Paek serves as the Region 6 board member on the CRCNA Board of Trustees). We praise God and thank Elder Kyu Paek for nine years of service on the CET. The Stated Clerk sent him a note of appreciation.
 7. CET approved the request from Crossroads CRC, San Marcos that, in accordance with Acts of Synod 2002 Supplement Article 55-a, any one of their ordained elders be permitted to administer communion in the absence of the ordained pastors for as long as they serve weekly communion.
 8. Rev. Il Yong Kang asked to have his ministerial credentials processed from Hanaro Church to the Korean American CRC of Orange County. The Executive Team did so. Since he has been without a call for two years since his separation from Hanaro Church, his eligibility for call would need to be extended by classis. (See Church Order Article 17-c.) Conversations were started with Rev. Kang and his supervising Council. Rev. Kang requested that his credentials be sent to Bethany Korean CRC, Burbank in Classis GLA. The Stated Clerk on behalf of the CET sent it. *(Apparently Bethany Korean CRC is prepared to extend him a call.)
 9. CET agreed to give the Back to God Ministries International (the media arm of the CRCNA) up to 15 minutes of time at our classis meeting in light of that ministry's 75th anniversary celebration.

10. World Renew board member Joel Verhoef was given permission to report at the classis meeting.

Classis approved by motion the work of the CET.

16. The chairman invited Classical Treasurer Dave De Koekkoek to present the proposed Classis Budget 2015. Dave first reported on the current situation. Classical ministry share giving has fallen far short of the budget and as classis had previously approved, he has dipped into the available reserves. The proposed budget for 2015 shows across-the-board cuts including drastic cuts to classis' support of the Hispanic Ministries Developer (HMD) and Evangelist Training Program (ETP). All of the cuts result in a budget closer to the giving capacity that classis has demonstrated over the last several years. The budget also includes a "contingent income" item that permits the full restoration of our commitment to the HMD and ETP should our ministry share giving increase adequately. **Motion was made and seconded to approve the budget for 2015 as presented.** Discussion followed. Dave pointed out that the HMD and ETP are supported by other streams of income besides what our classis contributes. In response to the disappointment that one person expressed in the cuts to the HMD and ETP when the classis financial report shows a sizeable financial reserve, Dave explained the role and restrictions of those financial reserves. **The chairman called for a vote on the budget. Classis approved.**

17. The Stated Clerk reported on the need for nominees for denominational boards from Region 6 for Calvin College (either clergy or lay) and Calvin Theological Seminary (clergy nominee needed). **Rev. Scott Elgersma expressed his willingness to be nominated for the Calvin Theological Seminary Board. Classis voted to nominate him.**

18. The Stated Clerk invited others interested in being nominated for either board or for membership on the CRC's Candidacy Committee or as ethnic, youth or deacon advisors to Synod 2015 to contact him about details or willingness to serve. **After the classis meeting, Elder Bill Stout of the Crossroads CRC of San Marcos indicated his interest in the Region 6 Calvin College Board position. The Stated Clerk, on behalf of classis, facilitated his application.**

19. Reports of Classical Counselors were given.

1) Rev. Ray Hommes for Oasis Community CRC, Moreno Valley. He reported that the make-up of the congregation is a close reflection of the make-up of the community. The leadership has worked with Trained Transitional Pastor Rev. Don Byker for the last eight months and now has Rudy Gonzalez serving in an advisory capacity. The leadership is working hard at discerning whom to call as its next pastor.

2) Rev. Mark Vermaire for Trinity Fellowship CRC, San Diego. Mark recalled the division that the congregation experienced almost a year ago and that it is served by Westminster Seminary (Escondido, CA) seminarians who provide the preaching of the Word. It's a small congregation that still needs work on reconciliation. Mark reported that the leadership is not willing to have contact with him.

3) Rev. Scott Elgersma for Crosspoint CRC, Chino, CA. He reported that the church's leadership is in a good place as it listens to God for direction. It was shell-shocked at first by the decision of Pastor Tim Spykstra announcing that he was concluding ministry there but the future looks good.

20. Classis engaged in some discussion about the matters that surfaced during the meeting. Rev. Scott Elgersma offered the following motion: "that by the February meeting of classis, the CET present to classis a process of discovering and discerning how to increase ministry share support and improve church engagement in classis and our covenantal commitment to each other." The motion was supported and approved.

21. Chairman Gabe Colangelo gave some concluding comments, thanked the host church and offered a closing prayer.

Next Classis meeting: February 8, 2015

Stated Clerk's Report to Classis CA South

Meeting on October 19, 2014

1. Received word about the separation of Tim Spykstra from Crosspoint CRC in Chino. Initiated conversation about appointing church visitors for the Council and processing the separation via Church Order Article 17.

3. After being informed about the move of Pastor Bob Moore to Oasis Church from Sovereign Grace Church, worked to process that via Church Order Articles 23 and 24.

4. Rev. Il Yong Kang asked to have his credentials processed from Hanaro Church to the Korean American CRC of Orange County. In consultation with the Executive Team, I did so. Since he has been without a call for two years since his separation from Hanaro Church, his eligibility for call would need to be extended by classis. (See Church Order Article 17-c.) Conversations were started with Rev. Kang and his supervising Council. Rev. Kang requested that his credential be sent to Bethany Korean CRC, Burbank in Classis GLA. I sent it. (Bethany Korean CRC is prepared to extend him a call.)

5. Crossroads sent a request to approve elders serving communion. I processed that with the Executive Team.

6. Back to God Ministries international would like time at our next classis meeting to celebrate its 75th anniversary. I brought the request to the Executive Team.

7. Helped Rev. Ron Chu and Faith Community CRC of Fullerton with processing a call to Rev. Chu. Now he legitimately has one!
8. With the closing of First Harvest Chapel in Tustin, CA and the subsequent merger of its congregation with a neighboring church resulting in an independent congregation, I worked with Rev. Rick Kim to discern next steps for him in terms of his ordination as a Minister of the Word in the CRC. The Classis Executive Team worked with Rick so that classis will be properly informed of the closing of his church. See the CET report to classis.
9. Attended three Executive Team meetings and a planning session that the CET hosted. Also produced minutes of those meetings.
10. Responded to the annual request from the CRC Yearbook folks for information about our classis.
11. Corresponded with Rev. Al Breems about a chaplaincy position he now has and how to process that with Oasis CRC.
12. Had several email conversations with Rev. DaeWoo Park of Las Vegas about the process of getting a building loan from the CRC Loan Fund for his church, Areumdawoon CRC. I directed him to our classis treasurer David De Koekkoek.
13. Arranged with Orange Korean Church of Fullerton to host our October 19 classis meeting. I am so grateful for their willingness to do so. Phil duBois agreed to arrange for the evening meal.
14. Commissioned Pastor Scott Geurink informed me that he would be leaving the area and his work with CR World Missions in Tijuana and moving to Michigan sometime in January. We communicated about the impact that such a move might have on his ordination.
15. Received a letter from LeeVale Butler indicating that he is ready to move on to his calling with the Salvation Army. Oasis Elders have accepted this letter and passed it along for processing at the classis meeting. CET will do so.
16. Forwarded a Church Visitation questionnaire that I had developed two year ago to Ron Chu, Phil duBois and others who may be contemplating visits to churches. It might serve as a useful guide in those visitations.