

Reformed Church in America Classis of the Southwest Leadership Team

Minutes of Leadership Team Meeting at Longview Community Church, Phoenix, AZ on February 19, 2014.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jim Poit, Rev. Gary Jarvis, Lynn Fischer, Fred Bates, Pastor Richard Caballero, and Rev. Susan Hetrick.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dr. Randy Wieland and Dr. Ted Vandeberg

President Jim Poit called the meeting to order, lead us in devotions not being distracted by those who cause division, Titus 3 and opened with prayer.

Approval of minutes: 09/05/2013 and e-mail meeting minutes dated 06/17/2013, 07/31/2013, 08/27/2013, 09/10/2013, 09/23/2013, 09/25/2013, 09/27/2013, 09/28/2013, 10/15/2013, 10/30/2013, 11/21/2013, 12/21/2013, 01/10/2014, 01/15/2014, 01/21/2014, 01/25/2014, 01/26/2014, 01/30/2014, and 02/08/2014, were submitted for approval:

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2014/11.

The meeting agenda was approved by voice vote 2014/12

Leadership Team Items:

Items from the Stated Clerk:

General Synod 2014 Delegates.

2014 RCA General Synod will be held June 12 to 17 at Central College in Pella Iowa.

Pastor delegates: Rev. Susan Hetrick and Rev. Gary Jarvis

Elder delegates: Gerry Bouma, from New Hope and an Elder from Cortaro Vista.

Classis meeting agenda:

It was agreed the fall session of Classis would be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2013 at Longview Community Church in Phoenix.

5:00 PM	Call to order & Opening Prayer
5:10 PM	Lite meal served by the Host Church
5:45 PM	Worship Host church worship team
6:15 PM	Classis Business Meeting
9:00 PM	Adjourn

Classis Strategist Dr. Poit commented on the Regional Synod of the FarWest change that eliminated the Regional Strategist position and the Classis of the Southwest need for a part-time Classis Strategist. It was suggested the position would on two areas of responsibility, 1) Classis support resource, 2) Mission Southwest Leadership. A draft Job description for the Classis support role and the approved position description for the Director of Mission Southwest were distributed for Leadership Team review and future action.

Oasis Renewal Center grant request:

The grant request dated 12/06/2013 was presented by Rev. Hetrick and Rev. Jarvis from the Oasis Board. The relationship of the Oasis Renewal Center with the Classis of the Southwest was clarified. Rev. Hetrick asked to be excused while the Leadership discussed the request.

M/S/C to provide a \$10,000 grant to the Oasis Renewal Center to support the addition of a fresh water well to the property and to authorize the Classis Treasurer to disperse the funds on a progressive basis as the implementation progresses. 2014/13

Treasurers report:

2013 year end income, expense, and account balance reports were provided.

M/S/C to receive the report for information 2014/14.

Reported the second invoice from the G & G legal team in the amount of \$19346.74 was paid.

The total legal fees as of this date are \$39813.18.

Mission Southwest Report: Rev. Jarvis Director. A Mission Southwest Report was distributed.

Rev. Jarvis commented on items in the report as follows;

We are Focusing on Making New Disciples

MSW over the next 5 years is focusing on the fundamentals, getting back to basics and encourage disciple-makers who multiply themselves, with the result of 400 new disciples between our two classis. This work was begun last year by calling the churches and encourage them to pray and fast.

Development of a definition of discipleship and measurement tools to be presented to both Classis for their use.

Discipleship Definition:

“A disciple is a student of Jesus who patterns their life after him by the exercise of the disciplines, following in his ways, laying down their life for others, and actively pouring themselves into the lives of others in order to make more disciples.”

Sub-Teams are developing Action Plans:

Each sub-team is developing action plans for what they are going to accomplish in 2014. High level initiatives of each sub-team are as follows:

Equipping Team: Provide a church planter's boot camp in both English and Spanish, add needed structure to the Hispanic Training Center, meet quarterly with Church Planters.

Expand Team: Meet with each church to build a relationship with MSW and share its vision. Work with the empower team in the Parent Church Network.

Empower Team: Reviving planter networks according to planter needs, start a Parent Church Network, and ensure sufficient supply of multiplication coaches.

Evaluate Team: TBD

Entreat Team: TBD

Building Supportive relationships with our Church Plants:

One key ingredient that we recognize we have been missing, is a way to hear the stores and updates from our church plants. The team is scheduling time with each planter to have one member of the MSW have a conversation with the planter on a quarterly basis.

We are also engaged in the following initiatives:

Process for Adopting existing congregations into the RCA and CRC.

Rev. Jonathan Gerstner and Rev. Gary Jarvis are tasked with pulling the pieces and resources together to aid in the task.

A conference in developing specialty church communities:

MSW plans to explore new models for making new disciples of Christ in the postmodern world. The Village in Tucson will host the conference in Tucson sponsored by CRC's Home Missions.

Church Health Team reports:

Rosemont Community Church:

Rev. Hetrick and Lynn Fischer, Rosemont Trustees reported the last Rosemont public worship service will be held on Sunday February 23, 2014, former pastors have been invited to share in the service, a notice of the service has been sent to the classis churches and others via e-mail.

Rev. Foster Severance: The Rosemont Trustees suggested a severance package be considered.

Recommendation:

A severance package consisting of 3 months' salary effective from the date Rosemont Community Church closure was announced on January 15, 2014 and a week of respite and transitional ministry counseling at Quiet Waters Retreat Center in Colorado.

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2014/15.

Mescalero Reformed Church:

Dr. Vandenberg, Moderator report via e-mail and telephone that Pastor Landegent has agreed to serve as Senior Pastor at Mescalero and arrangements are complete.

A special meeting of Classis is schedule for Thursday February 27, 2014 to Commission Pastor Benjamin Landegent as the Senior Pastor. The notice to Classis Churches was sent via e-mail. Dr. Poit, Rev. Jarvis and Dr. Vandenberg plan to attend.

Glass & Garden:

The Glass & Garden Trustees reported the court hearing on the action brought by David Nokes is scheduled for Friday February 21, 2014. Classis representation will consist of several members of the Leadership Team and the G & G Trustees.

Longview Community Church:

Pastor Caballero reported the Longview Hispanic Ministry will praise the Lord in celebration of 10 years of Hispanic Ministry at Longview on Sunday April 06, 2014.

Next Leadership meeting – to be determined.

M/S/C to adjourn 2014/16

Closing circle of prayer led by the Rev. Gary Jarvis
Respectfully submitted

Lynn Fischer, Stated Clerk