

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLASSIS OF THE SOUTHWEST, RCA**  
**Meeting in Regular Session at Christ's Community Church**  
**in Glendale, Arizona on September 26, 2013**

Our meeting day began at 4:PM with RCA health care and retirement plan presentations by Kenneth Bradsell, Executive director of benefit services and Claude Bussières, Manager of retirement services.

Rev. Dr. Jim Poit announced recess for dinner at 6:00 PM and blessed the meal served by the host church. The delegates gathered at 6:45 for Worship and Prayer lead by Christ's Community Church worship team followed by a message by Rev. Dr. Randy Wieland.

**Roll Call:**

Christ's Community: Pastor Rev. Dr. Randy Wieland, Pastor, Fred Bates, Pastor, Kelly DeYoung, Elder, Barry Ellington

Cortaro Vista: Pastor, Rev. Dr Ted Vandenberg, Elder, Rod Gossett

The Garden: Pastor, Absent, Elder, Absent Elder, Absent

Longview Community: Pastor, Richard Caballero; Elder, Kermit Hoffs, Elder, Marilyn Hoffs

Mescalero Reformed: Pastor, Vacant, Elder, Excused

New Hope Community: Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jim Poit, Pastor, Rev. Gary Jarvis, Elder, Lynn Fischer

Prescott Community: Pastor, Excused, Elder, Absent

Rosemont Community: Pastor, Rev. John Foster, Elder, Absent, Elder, Absent

The United Church of Los Alamos: Pastor, Excused, Elder, Excused

Regional Strategist: Rev. Gary Jarvis.

Words of Hope Delegate: Excused

VP Classis of the Southwest: Wayne Ribbens

Other Ministers: Dr. John Stapert, Rev. Bruce Laverman, Rev. Richard Koerselman, Rev. Susan Hetrick, and Rev. Edward Lungu.

Excused: Reverends John Busman, Ed Parcel, Robert Spencer, Russell Dykehouse, Loren VanGalder, Byran White, Bob Otto, Bob Myers, Richard Hine, John Van Mantgen, and Corrine S. Ellis,

Absent: Reverends Floyd Goulooze, Roland Van Es, Judy Marvel, Don Jansma, Fred Doidge, Anne Guild-Donovan, Kathleen Wolff, and Bill Heynen.

Guests: Rev. Darin Namming, Dakota Classis, Debra Foster, Rosemont Community.

Stated Clerk reported the roll call is complete and a quorum of delegates is present.

**Recognition of guests and granting of Privilege of the Floor:**

Rev. John Foster introduced Debra his wife, Dr. Poit introduced Rev. Darin Namminga and granted the privilege of the floor to the guests.

**Recognition on New Members:**

Rev. Gary Jarvis reported the Human Resources Team completed the oral examination of Commissioned Pastor candidate Agustin Hubert and find his response to questions in the following areas satisfactory; RCA Polity, Creeds and Standards, Church History and RCA Missions, Reformed Theology, the Sacraments, and Biblical Interpretation and Understanding. This completes the commissioned pastor requirements.

Recommendation: Mr. Agustin Hubert be Commissioned to the office of Associate Pastor at Longview Community Church in Phoenix, AZ.

**M/S/C to approve the recommendation 2013/14:**

Commissioned Pastor Agustin Hubert read the declaration for Commissioned Pastors and signed the register. Pastor Hubert was awarded a certificate of Commissioned Pastor program completion signed by the President and Clerk of Classis.

**Establishment of the order of the day and approval of the agenda:**

Approval of the Agenda.

**M/S/C to approve by voice vote 2013/15**

Boundaries of the House: The Christ's Community meeting room.

Schedule of Recesses: As needed

Requests for Suspension of Rules of Order: Article III section D 2, Term of officers

Appointment of Tellers: Christ's Community and Prescott Churches.

Classis Business Items:

Regional Strategist Report: Rev. Gary Jarvis

Reported The Regional Synod of the FarWest, at their August 2013 Meeting, approved a reorganization plan that eliminated the classis based regional strategist positions and established a church health and a church multiplication support positions reporting to the Regional Synod of the FarWest Executive director. Reported that Classis Mission, Values and Covenant statements were developed and approved the next step is to establish classis goals.

Classis Goals: Presented by Rev. Jarvis

- Make 400 new Disciples with the CRC by 2018.
- Implement Consistory Advisory and Coaching Rotation in 2014.
- Complete a Consistory Training retreat with an emphasis of discipleship in 2014.
- 30 new Commissioned Pastor, Minister of Word and Sacrament candidates in 2013.

The Classis Goals were affirmed by consensus 2013/16

Classis Retreat:

Schedule for November 22 & 23 at a location to be announced.

Prayer of thanksgiving and wisdom was offered by Dr. Wieland.

Team Reports:

Leadership Team: Rev. Dr. Jim Poit (meeting minutes were provided in the information packet).

Acknowledged the faithful service of Wayne Ribbens as he completes his term as Vice President of Classis and offered a prayer of thanks for his service.

Presentation of 2014 Classis Officer and Team Nominees: presented by Dr. Poit.

President	Rev. Dr. Jim Poit
Vice President	Rev. Dr. Ted Vandenberg
Mission Southwest:	1. Rev. Gary Jarvis 2. Pastor Richard Caballero 3. Agustin Hubert 4. To be determined
Church Health Team Leader	Rev. Dr. Randy Wieland
Assistant Leader	Rev. Susan Hetrick
Team Members:	Rev. Dr. Ted Vandenberg
Leadership Development	
Team Leader	Pastor Fred Bates,
Team Members:	Rev. Gary Jarvis Elder, Lynn Fischer Elder, Marilyn Hoffs.
Clerk	Lynn Fischer
Clerk in training	Pastor Fred Bates
Treasurer	Lynn Fischer
Finance team	Wayne Ribbens
Words of Hope	Rev. William DeBoer
Disabilities Advocate	Ann Ballard

M/S/C to approve the list of nominees by voice vote 2013/17

Dr. Poit Introduced Ann Ballard, New Hope member, and announced her willingness to serve as Classis Disabilities Advocate and offered words of encouragement. Ann Ballard shared from her life experience as a person with sight and hearing disabilities.

Reported that we celebrated the sale of the Desert Haven property to Harvest Community Church and gave thanks that the property is being used for Kingdom work in the community.

Prayer of celebration of Kingdom work by Dr. Vandenberg.

Mission Southwest: Rev. Gary Jarvis, Co-Director.

Wins report:

- Set a Goal for 400 New Disciples by 2017

- Local Thrive Church planting boot camp, September 16 – 19.
- Approved Ministry Structure (in the information packet).
- Hispanic Training Center, 12 Graduates in the first cohort, about 40 students enrolled.
- Approved staff position descriptions for the Director of Mission Southwest, and Treasurer.
- Theological Education Cohort – Goheen Cohort, two new students enrolled for year two.
- RealTalk Campus Ministry at Mesa Community College
- Hispanic Ministry start-ups, Longview bible study, Hispanic Ministry at CCC Glendale, and CCC CRC Chandler.
- Started coached Network for Church Planters.

Challenges:

- Funding, KEZ has ended, CA-CRC funding is uncertain, CSW-RCA time before full availability.
- Coach Network Momentum, Planters are distant from the Phoenix hub location.
- Theological Education Cohort, Accreditation issue.
- Hispanic Ministry Training Center, need administration help.
- Open CSW-RCA voting position.

Team membership Guidelines:

- Team membership limited to three Ministers of the Word.
- At least two team members will be women.
- At least two members will be church planters.
- Other than ordained ministers, the team members will be under the age of 35
- Members recognized as having a heart for Mission.

Prayer of encouragement by Dr. Poit.

**Church Health Team Report:** Rev. Dr. Randy Wieland Team Leader.

Mescalero Reformed Church: Dr. Ted Vandenberg Moderator.

Reported CP Ben Landegent is doing a great leadership job and has been successful in encouraging church leaders and members to be involved in day to day activities.

Reported the search committee is functioning well, they have three viable candidates, one candidate and his wife has been invited to visit Mescalero and meet with the church leadership.

Prayer of encouragement offered by Dr. Wieland.

Rosemont Community Church: Rev. John Foster Interim Pastor

Reported several re-focus summits were held with members of the congregation, the viability question became a concern. The Classis Church Health Team met with the congregation to provided guidance on the issue. Agreement by the congregation is expected in the near future.

Prayer of discernment was offered by Dr. Wieland.

Glass & Garden Drive – In Church: Dr. Randy Wieland, Trustee.

Reported the supersession process has been difficult, Dr. Gene James, Glass & Garden Pastor, has informed the trustees and notified the congregation he will not continue as an RCA Commissioned Pastor and as pastor of the Glass & Garden church. Dr. James announced his last worship service as senior pastor is scheduled for 09/29/2013 and that he was starting a non-denominational ministry in the area. Several of the worship group have indicated they will follow Dr. James to his new ministry. The members leaving will be removed from the Glass and Garden church membership rolls at that time. About a 10 to 20 Glass and Garden members remain after Dr. James and his group leave. The membership of the remaining members will continue to be at Glass & Garden church. The Glass and Garden worship center has been rented for the near future to a nondenominational church that has indicated they will hold Sunday worship services at the location. The remaining members have indicated they plan to attend the worship services of the tenant.

Trustee Issue:

Consistent with Reformed Church in America Book of Church Order, Chapter 1 Part 2 Sections 13, para. d, and Chapter 1 Part 2 Section 14, para. a & b, five persons were designated to exercise the functions of the Glass & Garden Drive-In Church consistory.

Kim Hicks and Cassie Peters, were members of the Glass & Garden Church and served on Glass and Garden consistory before supersession and accepted appointment to the Glass and

Garden board of trustees. Kim and Cassie have notified the Trustee Board that they will leave the RCA and Glass and Garden church with the group that is leaving after the 09/29/2013 worship service.

Recommendation: Kim Hicks and Cassie Peters be removed from the G & G Trustee board.  
The recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/18

Recommendation: To authorize the Classis of the Southwest Leadership Team to select persons at a later date to serve as Trustees after they have had an opportunity to discuss the requirements with the individuals being considered.

The recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/18

Prayer by Dr. Wieland followed the report. Dr. Stapert offered a prayer of endurance and wisdom.

Hope Community Church Trustees Report: Rev. John Stapert, PHD, President of Trustees.

Dr. Stapert reported Paul Lorah passed away on January 6, 2013 his wife Estelle died in 2006. John indicated was a long-time friend of Paul and Estelle and had worshiped with them at Hope Church and they were in his bible study group. Paul and Estelle Lorah created their trust in 1998. They had no children and named their favorite charities as beneficiaries of their trust. John reported Hope Church received a bequest if \$77,895.54 from their trust to be used to expand church ministry in the Phoenix area.

Stated Clerks report on actions ordered and unfinished business.

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes:

A copy of the 04/02/2013 & 06/29/2013 meeting minutes were included in the information packet.

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2013/19

Referrals/Communications/Appeals:

Proposed By-laws changes first reading:

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES OF CLASSIS. (sections A & B)

Original Text: Section A

A. The Leadership Team

1. Membership

- a. The Leadership Team shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Church Health Team Leader, Church Health Team Assistant Leader, Two Multiplication Team members, the Stated Clerk and Treasurer, and the Regional Strategist. The President and Vice President may serve as Team Leader or Assistant Leader.
- b. The President of Classis shall be the presiding officer of the Leadership Team.
- c. The Regional Strategist shall be the vision-caster of the Leadership Team.
- d. The Leadership Team shall conduct all its business in harmony with the Book of Church Order.

Proposed Revised text: Section A

A. The Leadership Team

1. Membership

- a. The Leadership Team shall consist of the President, Vice-president, Church Health Team Leader, Church Health Team Assistant Leader, Two Multiplication Team members, the Stated Clerk and Treasurer. The President and Vice President may serve as Team Leader or Assistant Leader.
- b. The President of Classis shall be the presiding officer of the Leadership Team.
- c. The Leadership Team shall conduct all its business in harmony with the Book of Church Order.

Original Text: Section B

B. Church Multiplication Team:

The Church Multiplication Team (Team) will consist of representatives appointed by The Classis of the Southwest, RCA and Classis of Arizona CRCNA..

1. Purpose: To catalyze a church multiplication movement in the geographic area served by the Classis of the Southwest (RCA) and Classis of Arizona (CRCNA) through empowering, equipping, and encouraging churches and leaders for the planting of churches.
2. The Classis of the Southwest RCA shall appoint three persons to serve as Team members. Additional members may be added by the Team as needed, from within the bounds of the Classis of the Southwest RCA to address specific Church Multiplication activities. The individuals will be selected based on gifts of the individual and a strong desire to see the Kingdom multiply.

Proposed revised text section B:

B. Church Multiplication a.k.a. Mission Southwest

Mission Southwest Team (MS Team) will consist of representatives appointed by The Classis of the Southwest, RCA and Classis of Arizona CRCNA.

1. Purpose: To catalyze a church multiplication movement in the geographic area served by the Classis of the Southwest (RCA) and Classis of Arizona (CRCNA) through empowering, equipping, and encouraging churches and leaders for the planting of churches.
2. The Classis of the Southwest RCA shall appoint four voting representatives to serve as MS Team members. Additional voting representatives may be added or deleted by The Classis of the Southwest as requested by Mission Southwest. Additional, ex-officio members may be added by MS Team as needed, from within the bounds of the Classis of the Southwest RCA to address specific Church Multiplication activities. The individuals will be selected based on gifts of the individual and a strong desire to see the Kingdom multiply.

Recommendation: The first reading of changes to By-Laws Part II, Article V sections A & B be approved

The recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/20.

The Constitutional Inquiry forms: As required by the BCO Part 2, Article 7, Section 1, the 2013 Constitutional Inquiry were given to church delegates in attendance.

The 2012 Constitutional Inquiry Report:

Church	Question	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	I	j	k	l	m
Christ' Community		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cortaro Vista		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
The Garden														
Longview		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Los Alamos		N / A												
Mescalero		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
NewHope		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Prescott		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rosemont		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

General Synod Delegates:

The 2014 RCA General Synod will be held at Central College, Pella, Iowa, from June 11-17, 2014

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

Elder delegates: New Hope Community Church and Cortaro Vista Community Church.

Treasurer Report: Lynn Fischer, Classis Treasurer

The 2014 year to date Treasurers reports were included in the information packet. The Treasurer commented on several items in the report.

M/S/C the reports were received for information by voice vote 2013/21

Classis of the Southwest Salary Policy and Guidelines. Copies distributed at the meeting.

The Classis Finance team presented the 2014 – 2015 Salary Policy and Guidelines and highlighted changes.

Recommendation: The 2014 – 2015 Salary Policy and Guidelines be approved for use.

M/S/C the recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/22

Proposed 2014 classis budget (included in the information packet)

RCA General Synod \$44,115., Regional Synod of the Far West, \$19,041., Classis of the Southwest, \$21,150 for a total of \$83,306.

The treasurer committed on several items in the 2014 Budget. The travel expense budget continued at \$5000, due to the increased travel for Mescalero and Glass & Garden, the Regional Strategist item continued at \$6000 as Classis makes adjustments due to the organizational changes at the Regional Synod of the FarWest. The Regional Synod has agreed to send the \$13,500 previously paid to the Regional Strategist to the Classis of the Southwest to cover the cost of restructuring. The use of those funds to support Classis organizational changes has not been determined at this time.

The budget allocation for the Classis of the Southwest churches is as follow and is based on church income:

	Annual Amnt	Monthly Amnt
Christ's Comm	\$20,720	\$ 1,727
Cortaro Vista	\$7,118	\$ 593
Glass & Garden	\$6,701	\$ 558
Longview	\$4,755	\$ 396
Mescalero	\$4,609	\$ 384
New Hope	\$16,777	\$ 1,398
Prescott	\$9,419	\$ 785
Rosemont	\$4,441	\$ 370
Los Alamos	\$4,055	\$ 338
The Journey	\$4,708	\$ 392
Total	\$84,407	

Recommendation: The 2014 assessment budget be approved as submitted.

M/S/C the recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/23

New Business:

Rev. Edward Lungu commented on his ministry at the Federal prison in Florence Arizona and indicated he had attended the RCA and the Prison Chaplains conferences.

Time and place of next Regular Session of Classis of the Southwest – March 25, 2013 at Longview Community church, in Phoenix, AZ.

M/S/C 2013/24 To adjourn the business meeting at 9:15 PM.

The meeting Closed with a circle of prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn L. Fischer, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. James Poit, President