

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLASSIS OF THE SOUTHWEST, RCA**  
**Meeting in Regular Session at New Hope Community Church**  
**in Gilbert, Arizona**  
**on April 02, 2013**

Rev. Dr. Jim Poit called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and opened with prayer followed by recess for dinner served by the host church.

Worship and Prayer time – Dr. Poit introduced Rev. Bob Schut and asked him to comment on his ministry experience at Mescalero, New Mexico and his planned retirement in August 2013. A circle of prayer and laying on of hands followed.

Roll Call:

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

Cortaro Vista: Pastor, Rev. Dr Ted Vandeberg, Elder, Excused

The Garden: Pastor, Dr. Gene James, Elder, Larry Brasen, Elder, Absent

Longview Community: Pastor, Richard Caballero; Elder, Kermit Hoff's, Elder, Marilyn Hoff's

Mescalero Reformed: Pastor, Rev. Excused, Elder, Ben Landegent

New Hope Community: Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jim Poit, Pastor, Rev. Gary Jarvis, Pastor, Youm Yoon Oh, Pastor, Israel Camacho, Elder, Harry Reide

Prescott Community: Pastor, Rev. David Ellis, Elder, Absent

Rosemont Community: Pastor, Excused, Elder, Carp Steffens, Elder, Audrey Mattson

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

The Journey: Elder, Absent, Elder, Wayne Ribbens

Regional Strategist: Rev. Gary Jarvis.

Words of Hope Delegate: Rev. William DeBoer.

Other Ministers: Dr. John Stapert, Rev. Bruce Laverman, Rev. Richard Koerselman, Rev. Juno Smalley, 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, and Bill Heynen.

Guests: Rev. Bruce Bugbee, Regional Synod Executive, Carol Pilcal, Rosemont, Rev. David Reynolds, CRCNA Flagstaff.

Lynn Fischer, 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. Bruce Bugbee, Regional Synod Executive, Carol Pilcal, Rosemont, Rev. David Reynolds, CRCNA Flagstaff.

Recognition on New Members:

Rev. Gary Jarvis reported the Human Resources Team completed the oral examination of Commissioned Pastor candidate Ben Landegent 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. Ben Landegent be Commissioned to the office of Associate Pastor at Mescalero Reformed Church in Mescalero, New Mexico.

M/S/C to approve the recommendation 2013/01 Mr. Ben Landegent be Commissioned to the office of Associate Pastor at Mescalero Reformed Church in Mescalero, New Mexico.

Mr. Landegent read the declaration for Commissioned Pastors and signed the register.

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

Approval of the Agenda.

M/S/C to approve by voice vote 2013/01

Boundaries of the House: The Garden meeting room.

Schedule of Recesses: As needed

Requests for Suspension of Rules of Order:

Appointment of Tellers: Prescott Community and New Hope Churches.

Presentation and Signing of the Covenant of Accountability– Rev. Gary Jarvis

Following a reading of the Covenant of Accountability and discussion the Classis Members and delegates indicated desire to comply by signing the register.

## Classis Business Items:

### Regional Strategist Report Rev. Gary Jarvis

Goal # 1: Develop, with the Classis, Tangible Goals and Targets for Church Multiplication, Church Health, and Leadership Development.

#### Progress:

Leadership Team has set Goals.

Church Health Team has a plan for setting Goals with the entire Classis.

Mission Southwest is ready to set goals after having completed mission/vision/values and structure

#### Next Steps:

Participate in Leadership Team's Goals

- Participate in Church Health Team's Goal setting process.
- Engage the Leadership Development Task Force on setting Goals.
- Engage Mission Southwest in setting goals.

Goal # 2: Develop the foundations of quality prayer support and Communication.

#### Progress:

Agreed to participate with other Far West Classis' to utilize a communication tool called Cobblestone.

#### Next Steps:

Upload a basic website with the developed content.

Revive Monthly Skype Prayer Meetings

Implement Cobblestone.

### Other Items:

Celebration of Commissioned Pastor Training.

Discovery Worship: A worship October 16, 2012 at Longview Community Church.

## Team Reports:

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

Dr. Poit presented the classis goals and is in contact CRCNA Classis Arizona to confirm their interest and begin working on a schedule for the retreat in a location in the greater Phoenix area.

#### 2013 classis goals.

Host a Classis-wide (CRC/RCA) Leadership Retreat.

- Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team.
- Who: All pastors, Staff, consistory/counsel members, ministry leaders.
- When: A Friday night and Saturday.
- Purpose: To build relationships.
- Why: to help each consistory/council follow through with their goals.
- Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team.
- When This can be set-up at the retreat.

Establish RCA/CRC "Coaching Clusters" for every pastor in RCA/CRC Classis.

- Why: We should have each pastor in a coached network so that they can be disciplined and supported by others.
- Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team.

The Classis Goals were affirmed by consensus 2013/02

Mission Southwest Team: Dr. Gene James, Team Member.

Mission Southwest is the name selected by the combined RCA/CRC Multiplication. Dr. James reported The team has met twice, Documents that set forth the organizational structure of the combined team were distributed to the Classis delegates. Dr. James commented on the documents and answered questions from the floor followed;

Coached Network: Rev. Ellis reported the Coached Network has been meeting on a regular basis with good attendance from the pastors involved with New Ministries.

Hispanic Ministry Training Center: Pastor Caballero reported that the training center is going well with 43 ministry students in attendance.

Prayer of encouragement was offered by Dr. James.

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

Minutes of their April 1 meeting were distributed, an excerpt is as follows;

It is our desire to create a climate of mutual care and resources among the churches of the classis. We recognize this is est done in relationship and not in any supervisory or authoritative manner. In that vein we purpose that a process emerge from all the churches out of the upcoming retreat.

It is further our desire to celebrate and learn from one another at classis meetings by including a time in the Church Health reporting section where each church can celebrate a ministry "win" We will begin this process

at our next Classis meeting.

Dr. Wieland asked the members of the assembly to report “wins”, the following is their response.

New Hope: Community involvement, Layperson participation.

Cortaro Vista: Lay pillars are aging – New emerging leaders are coming forward.

Rosemont: In the midst of refocus.

Mescalero: Joy of witnessing the return of a former member and their statement of renewed Faith.

Longview: Many young Hispanic which makes for a wonderful service.

The Garden: Hired a coach to train small group leaders.

Prescott: Person came and made a significant financial contribution, return on Easter Sunday.

Mescalero: Rev. Gary Jarvis, reported for the Supervision Team consisting of Rev. Jarvis, Rev. William DeBoer and Rev. Dr. Ted Vandenberg.

Reported the Supervision Team met with the Mescalero consistory in February 2013. He commented on the leadership strength of consistory members and that the consistory is working to update their church profile as they prepare for new leadership.

Vacant Church Reports:

Rosemont Community Church, Rev. Dr. Ted Vandenberg, Supervisor.

Dr. Vandenberg reported that growth has been minimal, and that the Refocus process continues and has now brought them to a point of discovering their actual values which allowed them to see what they believe and don't actually commit to in behavior. Rev. Foster and the Supervision Team look for guidance from Classis Leadership for objectives as to a way to asses viable ministry verses un-viable ministry as it relates to Rosemont.

The Journey, Reported later in the Agenda.

Prayer by Dr. Wieland followed the report.

Stated Clerks report on actions ordered and unfinished business.

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes:

A copy of the 09/14&15/2012 and 01/12/2013 meeting minutes were included in the information packet.

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2013/03

Referrals/Communications/Appeals:

Presentation 2011 General Synod BCO changes:

Approval / Disapproval

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Scripture Mandatory at Consistory Meetings(MFS 2012, R-47, pp. 299-300)  | X |
| 2. Examination of Ministers Demitted from Ministry (MGS 2012, R-50, p. 303) | X |
| 3. Conscience Clauses (MGS 2012, R-60, pp. 324-325)                         | X |

A circle of prayer of encouragement followed.

By-laws proposed change Second 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, Multiplication Team Leader, Multiplication Team Assistant Leader, the Stated Clerk and Treasurer, and the Regional Strategist. The President and Vice President may serve as Team Leader or Assistant Leader.

**Revised text: Section A**

A. The Leadership Team

1. Membership

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.

**Original Text: Section B**

B. Church Multiplication Team:

1. Purpose: To catalyze a church multiplication movement in the Classis of the Southwest through empowering, equipping, and encouraging churches and leaders for the planting of churches.

2. The Team shall consist of a Team Leader and Assistant Leader and additional persons, as determined by the Team leaders, from within the bounds of the Classis of the Southwest selected by the Leadership Team, based gifts of the individual and a strong desire to see the kingdom multiply.

**Revised 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.

Recommendation: The second reading of changes to By-Laws Article V sections A & B be approved  
The recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/04.

**ARTICLE VI GENERAL RULES (sections A & F)**

**Original Text:**

**A. Assessments**

Annual assessments shall be levied on the churches of Classis. The amount per active communicant member shall be recommended by the Operations Committee and voted on at the stated fall session. Such assessments shall be paid to the Classis Treasurer monthly or quarterly.

**Revised Text:**

**A. Assessments**

The Reformed Church in America General Synod, Regional Synod with jurisdiction, and Classis raise operating funds using the assessment method. It is the responsibility of classis to allocate the assessment to the churches in their jurisdiction.

Consistent with the Regional Synod of the Far West, The Classis of the Southwest allocation method is based on Church Total Income with the goal of equalizing the assessment percentage of income for each classis church. To allow the allocation to equalize over time, the Leadership Team shall determine maximum percentage of increase or decrease in a given year.

A schedule of the assessment amount for each classis church shall be recommended by the Treasurer at the stated fall session of classis. Such assessments shall be sent to the Classis Treasurer monthly or quarterly as agreed.

**Original Text:**

**F. Delegates to Regional Synod**

**1. Delegates to the Regional Synod**

- a. To improve the synergy between Regional Synod leadership and Classis leadership, the delegate positions will be a byproduct of the Church Health and Multiplication Team leadership and may be either a Pastor or Elder of Classis.
- b. The Classis Church Health Team Leader or Assistant Leader shall serve as delegate or alternate to the Regional Synod. Term of service shall be based on Team Leadership term of service and change as the Leadership changes.
- c. The Classis Multiplication Team Leader or Assistant Leader shall serve as delegate or alternate to the Regional Synod. Term of service shall be based on Team Leadership term of service and change as the Leadership changes.

**2. Regional Synod Overtures and Judicial Business committee member.**

- a. The Leadership Team shall appoint a classis Minister to serve on the Regional Synod Overtures and Judicial Business Committee as the need arises.

**Revised text:**

**F. Delegates to Regional Synod**

**1. Delegates to the Regional Synod**

- a. To improve the synergy between Regional Synod leadership and Classis leadership, the delegate positions will be a byproduct of the Church Health, Church Multiplication and Classis Leadership Teams.
- b. The Classis Leadership Team shall assure that Classis representation is consistent with Part III Article of the Book of Church Order and the Regional Synod of the Far West bylaws.
- c. Term of service shall be based on Classis Leadership Team term of service and change as the Leadership Team membership changes.

**2. Regional Synod Overtures and Judicial Business committee member.**

- a. The Leadership Team shall appoint a classis Minister to serve on the Regional Synod Overtures and Judicial Business Committee as the need arise

Recommendation: The second reading of changes to By-Laws Article VI sections A & F be approved  
The recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/05.

General Synod Delegates:

The 2013 RCA General Synod will be held at Central College, Pella, Iowa, from June 20-25, 2013

Pastor delegates: Rev. Dr. Jim Poit and Rev. Dr. Randy Wieland

Elder delegates: Christ's Community unnamed person and Longview Community, Augustin Hubert.

Treasurer Report: Lynn Fischer, Classis Treasurer

The 2012 year to date Treasurers reports were included in the information packet. The Treasurer commented on several items in the report, responded to questions from the assembly and recommended the reports be received for information.

M/S/C the recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/06

New Business:

Communication received from the Journey Ministries:

Lynn Fischer, Stated Clerk, reported a letter was received from Journey Ministries which stated their consistory and the Classis Supervision Team had met and agreed with heavy hearts that January 13, 2013 would be the last day they would meet in public worship and asked Classis to supersede the consistory.

Recommendation: That Classis honor the request for Classis to supersede the Journey Ministries consistory and appoint Rev. Gary Jarvis, Mr. Wayne Ribbens, and Mr. Lynn Fischer to serve as Trustees.

Wayne Ribbens, and Supervisors Dr. Wieland, and Rev. Jarvis spoke to the situation and answered questions from the assembly.

M/S/C the recommendation was approved by voice vote 2013/07

Time and place of next Regular Session of Classis of the Southwest – September 24, 2013 at Christ's Community church, in Glendale, AZ.

M/S/C 2013/08 To adjourn the business meeting at 9:10 PM.

The meeting Closed with a circle of prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn L. Fischer, Stated Clerk

Rev. Dr. James Poit, President