

Reformed Church in America Classis of the Southwest Leadership Team

Minutes of Leadership Team Meetings at Longview Community Church, Phoenix, AZ on March 21, 2013.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jim Poit, Dr. Randy Wieland, Rev. Gary Jarvis, Lynn Fischer, Wayne Ribbens, and Pastor Richard Caballero, and Dr. Gene James.

President Jim Poit called the meeting to order, led devotions followed by a circle of prayer.

Approval of minutes: 10/06/2012, 10/15/2012, and 11/29/2013, e-mail meeting minutes dated 12/21/2012, 12/27/2012, 01/20/2013, 02/05/2013, 02/28/2013, 03/10/2013, and 03/14/2013, were submitted for approval:

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2013/06.

Regional strategist report:

Top Two Goals for 2013.

Goal #1: Develop, with the Classis, Tangible Goals and Targets for Church Multiplication, Revitalization, and Leadership Development by the end of 2012.

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 by Dec. 2012.

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.

Leadership Team Items:

Items from the Stated Clerk:

General Synod 2013 Delegates.

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

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

Elder delegates: Agustin Hubert from Longview and an elder from Christ's Community.

Classis meeting agenda.

It was agreed the Spring Session of Classis would be held on Tuesday April 02, 2013 at New Hope Community Church in Gilbert. It was agreed the focus of the meeting would be to celebrate the ministry of Rev. Schut at Mescalero as he prepares for retirement in August 2013, the Commissioning of Ben Landegent as Associate Pastor at the Mescalero Reformed Church, processing the request for super-session received from the Journey Ministries in Surprise, AZ., and the proposed revisions to the RCA Book of Church Order from the 2012 General Synod.

Treasurers report:

2012 year end income and expense statements, balance sheet were distributed and reviewed. In the discussion that followed it was noted that Desert Haven had not made assessment payment and their assessments would continue to the end of calendar year 2013.

Reported the lease payments Hope property have been received on time throughout 2013 from Freedom Center worship group and

Reported the lease payments for the Desert Haven property have been received on schedule from Harvest Church.

M/S/C to receive the report for information 2013/07.

RCA Health Insurance.

RCA Benefit Services has distributed a communication to the RCA churches which notified them that the RCA health insurance would be discontinued at the end of 2013, and consistories will be able to choose either to join the proposed RCA/CRCNA voluntary plan or to obtain insurance from state or federal insurance marketplace. Plans are underway to have a new website dedicated to providing information during the transition.

Reports in Spanish. A need for the classis reports to be available in the Spanish language was expressed at the meeting. It was agreed that Agustin Hubert would be asked to do the translation.

Classis Outreach Ministry:

Prescott boomer Ministry.

Communications received from the Prescott CC leadership indicated the ministry launched on schedule, the response from the community has been good with visitors each Sunday.

The Garden Hispanic Ministry.

Dr. James reported a small group is meeting in one homes. Dr. James also reported funds had been received from KEZ and a matching fund request would be sent to Classis in the near future.

New Hope – Nueva Esperanza.

Reported the Ministry is going well at it's facility in Mesa, worship attendance continues to increase, Bible studies and other activities are well attended.

Launch Point.

Reported the Ministry is going well and attendance continues to increase.

Newbigin House

Dr. Goheen is leading a cohort in the Phoenix, AZ area, comprised of nondenominational pastors, to help develop s curriculum in a real world setting. Rev. Jarvis is a member of this cohort.

Mission Southwest:

Mission Southwest is the name selected by the combined RCA/CRC Multiplication. Rev. Jarvis reported he had attended the initial meeting and a second meeting of the Combined RCA/CRC Multiplication Team and distributed minutes of the meeting which set forth the organizational structure. It was agreed that Dr. James would report on Mission Southwest activities at the upcoming Classis meeting.

2013 classis goals.

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

- Responsibility: Classis Leadership Team
- Who: All pastors, Staff, consistory/counsel members, ministry leaders.
- Location: Franciscan Renewal Center or similar
- 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.
- January 2013.

Dr. Poit agreed to 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.

Church Health Team report

The Journey. Lynn Fischer 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 the Leadership Team recommend to Classis that they 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.

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2013/08

Rosemont: 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 one year term of Rev. Foster's contract was discussed, and was agreed that the need for extension would be determined at a later date by recommendation from Church Health.

Mescalero: Rev. Gary Jarvis, reported the Supervision Team met with the Mescalero consistory in February 2013. The consistory is working to update their church profile as they prepare for new leadership.

New Business:

Desert Haven/Harvest Church.

Lynn Fischer reported a letter of intent to purchase the Desert Haven property had been received from Harvest Community Church.

Recommendation: Dr. Poit, David Nokes and Lynn Fischer develop a Classis price position and enter into dialog with Harvest Leadership to reach an agreement that can be presented to Classis.

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2013/09

Surprise Land.

Lynn Fischer reported a letter was received from Manuel C. Mendivil, Pastor, Grace Church in El Mirage, AZ. The letter expressed an interest to purchase the 5.74 acres of Classis land on Litchfield road in Surprise, AZ.

Recommendation: Wayne Ribbens and Lynn Fischer make contact in Surprise, AZ area to determine the value of the land and to contact Pastor Mendivil to better understand his inquiry.

M/S/C approved by voice vote 2013/10

Next Leadership meeting – to be determined.

M/S/C to adjourn 2013/11

Closing circle of prayer by the Team

Respectfully submitted

Lynn Fischer, Stated Clerk