

Location: Calvary Reformed Church, Orland Park, IL

1. OPENING WORSHIP at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

CHURCHES

Berwyn: First

Chicago: Bethel
Good News
La Capilla

Mt. Greenwood

Downers Grove Community

Lemont: Christ Community

Lombard: Fellowship
Taiwanese

Orland Park: Calvary

Riverdale: Ivanhoe

Stickney: Faith

West Chicago: Faith

ELDER DELEGATES

Rich Schuler
Ray Chen
Judy Wiggins

Alice Pepin
Daniel Windsor
Richard Van Swol

Richard McNeil

Jim Ozinga
Dennis Suda
Scott Smith
Peter Teng
Chuck Montgomery
Ken Henke Sr.
Barry Voorn
Harold Post

Kathie Darman
Jewel Willis Thomas
George Kooima

BenHiggins

PASTORS

DuWayne Hanke
Edie Lenz
Pedro Windsor

Bill Crowder

Angie Mabry-Nauta
Joe Paglia
Bud Pratt
David Parrish
Joe Paglia

Howard Hoekstra
Dave Van Kley

Christopher Poest

Specialized Ministers: Robert Reid, Patricia Allen David Crump, Maryteresa Orshonsky, Steven Young.

Coordinating Committee: John Kooyenga, Diane Spacek

Guests: Kevin Engel; Jericho Road, Wesley Granberg-Michaelson; General Synod of RCA, Wayne Van Regenmorter; Synod of Mid-America, Robert Fulton; Pastor Care/Assessment Team.

3. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION

GEN-08-W-1 *Recommendation to accept the transfer of the Rev. Steve Luchies from the Classis of Zeeland into the Classis of Chicago tabled to Spring Stated Session so Steve Luchies can be present.*

GEN-08-W-2 *Recommendation to accept the transfer of the Rev. Jeff Klein from the Classis of Illiana into the Classis of Chicago tabled to the Spring Stated Session so Jeff Klein can be present.*

4. GRANTING THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR TO GUESTS

GEN-08-W-3 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to grant the privilege of the floor to the guests.*

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORDER OF THE DAY

a. Boundaries of the House were established by President Poest.

b. Requests for Suspension of the Rules of Order – None.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

GEN-08-W-4 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Fall Stated Session on October 20, 2007.*

GEN-08-W-5 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Special Session held on February 15, 2008 at 1:00 pm at Faith Community Reformed Church for the purpose of examining Rev. Robert Reid.*

7. APPOINTMENTS

a. Tellers were appointed by President Poest.

b. Other Appointments: Diane Spacek was appointed acting clerk for Stated Winter Session.

8. REFERRALS

a. Communications

Classis of Illiana letter regarding 2007 General Synod worship leader, included with agenda

RCA Braaksma updates and thank you

Manitoba Ministries thank you for financial support

Manitoba Ministries request for churches to remember the \$9 per member askings

Interfaith Council for the Homeless the letter will be available at the meeting for information

ELCA letter seeking those interested in ministry with the deaf community

Victorian Village/Pete Klein is seeking approx. 50 hymnals – The Church of the Good News will be able to supply them.

b. Requests for Excused Absences

Excused Absences were requested by Sharon Schramel, George Beukema, Tom Corwin, Scott Manetsch, Ron Sanford, Liala Beukema, Shane Sterk

GEN-08-W-6 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the requests for excused absences.*

9. STATED CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS ORDERED AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Annual Consistorial Reports Completed reports are due at this meeting.

Classis of Chicago Email Network All members of the Classis of Chicago are invited and encouraged

to join the Classis of Chicago email network. Simply send a blank email to:
ClassisOfChicago-subscribe@yahogroups.com
 or, send your email address to the Stated Clerk at cccdspacek@aol.com

10. WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

11. PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE RELIGION REPORT

GEN-08-W-6A – *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive the President's State of Religion Report.*

12. REPORTS OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE - Rev. DuWayne Hanke, Chairperson

Pastor Support Teams The Committee has adjusted the teams to reflect changes in Classis membership.

Specialized Ministers The Committee is in the process of distributing letters to the specialized ministers and will review the responses at their next meeting.

Classis Policy on Marriage and Divorce for Ministers Due to the large amount of topic scheduled for the Winter Stated Session, discussion on this document will be postponed to the Spring Stated Session.

CANDIDATE CARE COMMITTEE - Rev. Howard Hoekstra, Chairperson

Report on Students Under the Care of Classis

Rev. Robert Reid

CAN-08-W-1 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the transfer of the Rev. Robert Reid from the Presbyterian Church in America into the Classis of Chicago.*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE Mr. John Kooyenga, Chairperson

2007 Financial Report

STE-08-W-1 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the 2007 Financial Report.*

13. COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Update on Charges Pending

Noted during discussion on upcoming trial:

The Coordinating Committee originally received communication from the ad-hoc O.J.B. committee indicating:

- a) that charges numbered one (1) through three (3) (of six originally filed) were found to be with merit and
- b) that efforts to resolve the matter short of trial were not successful.

The ad-hoc O.J.B. committee also recommended, "to table or withhold any further action against those charged pending the completion of the General Synod's dialogue."

After significant discussion the Coordinating Committee in light of Book of Church Order 2.I.4.6, made a motion, seconded, carried, to proceed to trial.

Contract with Rich Schuler The following contract for consulting services with Rich Schuler for follow-up with the Church Health Assessment process was approved by the Coordinating Committee:
 The Classis of Chicago contracts with Rich Schuler as a consultant to lead the Classis efforts at follow-up and implementation of the Church Health Assessment reports. The contract shall run from January 1- December 31, 2008. The total compensation shall not exceed \$35,000, and shall be disbursed monthly. The Consultant is to work, in conjunction with the Church Care Committee, with the churches of the Classis to implement the recommendations contained in their respective Health Assessment reports. Additionally, the Consultant shall form an intercessory prayer team and shall communicate specific prayer requests to this team on a

regular basis. The Consultant is accountable to the Classis through the Coordinating Committee, and shall provide regular reports to the Coordinating Committee at its meetings prior to the stated sessions of the Classis. The Coordinating Committee shall evaluate the Consultant at least quarterly. Either party may terminate this contract at any time.

GEN-08-W-6B *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive the Coordinating Committee's Report.*

14. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Overture and Judicial Business Committee

OJB-08-W-1 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve proposed amendment to the Constitution of the RCA:*

1. *Judicial Bodies*

OJB-08-W-2 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve proposed amendment to the Constitution of the RCA:*

2. *Ministers in Union Churches*

b. Nominations Committee

Nominations: President - Bud Pratt
 Vice-President - Sharon Schramel
 Stated Clerk/Treasurer - Diane Spacek
 Church Care Chairperson - Rich Schuler
 Pastor Care Chairperson - DuWayne Hanke
 Stewardship Chairperson - John Kooyenga
 Candidate Care Chairperson - Howard Hoekstra

GEN-08-W-6 *A motion was made, seconded and carried to approved the slate as presented.*

15. REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Wayne Van Regenmorter.

16. PROJECT TEAM REPORTS

Strategic Planning Committee

The Committee presented a draft Vision Statement for the Classis and requested feedback to be sent to John Kooyenga via email: John.Kooyenga@trnty.edu.

That Classis of Chicago is a fellowship of Reformed Church in America congregations called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Jesus Christ in metropolitan Chicago.

Our shared task is to equip congregations for ministry and in and to our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-racial communities to that lives are being transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.

Our call is to work together towards healthy churches which engage their communities so that those apart from Christ are found, the hungry are fed, the broken are made whole, hurts are healed, hope overcomes despair, and the surrounding community becomes more just and gracious for all people as they experience God's expanding realm of grace, mercy, love and justice.

17. CHURCH AND CLASSIS HEALTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

GEN-08-W-06A *A motion was made, seconded and carried to appoint the church Care Committee as the consistory of the First Reformed Church of Berwyn.*

GEN-08-W-6B *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the closing of the ministry of Church of The Good News effective May 18, 2008.*

STE-08-W-2 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the Stewardship Committee a) review with our churches that hold a 501c3 form / status to see if they jeopardized*

their "not for profit" status, tax exempt status on property and sale items and how they are recording their dual status to the IRS. Also to investigate the liabilities, if any, that the Classis has with churches holding not-for-profit status and the 501c3 status

b) begin to implement and carry out a plan to raise funds/grants from organizations and individuals to advance the work of the Kingdom that would be available to be used by churches to incorporate new ministries

c) come alongside the consistory of the Taiwanese Community Church to assist and explore with them the possibility of buying a building in their future to serve their needs.

GEN-08-W-6c *A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the 10 recommendations (attached) from the Health Assessment Team*

18. REFLECTIONS FROM WES GRANBERG-MICHAELSON

19. CHURCH CARE COMMITTEE Rich Schuler, Chairperson

Hanover Park Church Start Papers have been filed with an attorney so Jose Jesus Ramirez will be able to work legally in the United States. The kick-off targeted is now set for April 1, 2008.

Peace Reformed Church The combined church and parsonage property and facilities have been appraised at \$1,930,000.

20. NEW BUSINESS - none

21. TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT SESSION

Spring Stated Session: Saturday, May 17, 2008 at Church of the Good News, Chicago, IL at 9:00 am

Coordinating Comm.: Thurs., April 17, 2008 at Calvary Reformed Church, Orland Park, IL at 10:00 am

22. APPROVAL OF THE ROLL CALL

GEN-08-W-7 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Roll Call by signature.*

23. READING OF THE JOURNAL

GEN-08-W-8 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the Coordinating Committee to approve the Reading of the Journal.*

24. ADJOURNMENT WITH WORSHIP

GEN-08-W-9 *A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn with prayer.*

25. CLOSING PRAYER

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Spacek, Stated Clerk

Christopher Poest, President

Diane Spacek, Stated Clerk