

**The Minutes of
the Stated Session of
The Reverend Schenectady Classis
February 28, 2017 – 7:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Enrolled Ministers: W. Levering, S. Midge, J. Fulkerson, L. De Kruif, J. deVelder, K. McHeard, L. Bodden, J. Vincent, J. Compton, L. VanderWal, R. Scheenstra, J. Vanderbeck, G. Szantner, K. Busman, J. Marvel

Elder Delegates: B. Lewis & C. Lewis (FRC – Schenectady); C. Pezzano (Niskayuna); B. Harrington (Helderberg); A. DeYoe (Old Saratoga); K. Brittan (Woestina); J. Stevens (Amity); M. Sanders & M. Anderson (Ft. Miller); D. Walsh & D. Schalekamp (FRC – Scotia); J. Pettis (Bacon Hill); B. McGarry (Cobblestone); M. Rand (Lisha's Kill); B. Book (Bellevue); K. Jackson & R. Lasselle (Altamont); J. Cook & L. Lumbra (Trinity); K. Mix (Lynwood). [NONE – West Glenville, Christ Community Reformed]

Retired Ministers: W. Faulkner

Preaching Elders (not serving as delegates): J. Moak, C. Lasselle

Candidates: H. Kramer

Guests: K. Grosch (Church Supervision Committee); T. Lehner (Elder VP – Niskayuna), Rev. R. Hoffman (PC(USA) – Interim Ft. Miller); Rev. A. Norton-Levering (Albany Classis)

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: D. Carlson, Jo. White, J. Hoprich, A. Reilly.

ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE: B. Schutter, R. Krutz, J. Bosman, S. DeBlock, B. Doolittle, T. McCrossan, J. Burnetter (Treasurer), J. Bork (Candidate)

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The classis enjoyed dinner together, hosted by the First Reformed Church of Scotia at 6:00 PM.

Worship was led by Candidate H. Kramer and members of First Reformed Church of Scotia at 7:00.

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Call to Order by President Midge at 7:43 PM.

The President called for a quorum. Interim clerk J. Vanderbeck declared a quorum.

The President appointed enrolled ministers J. Compton and K. Busman as tellers for the duration of the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made from the floor to approve the agenda as presented.
M/S/C to accept the agenda as presented.

Appointment of Clerk *Pro Tem*: The President informed the classis of the resignation of stated clerk C. Troost. In order to conduct business, the President asked for a motion to formally appoint J. Vanderbeck as Clerk *Pro Tem* for this meeting.

M/S/C to appoint Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck – Clerk *Pro Tem*.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: The President asked for a motion to receive the reports and minutes in Appendices A, G, I, L, and M by way of the Consent Agenda.

M/S/C to approve the consent agenda items.

Clerk Items: The clerk *pro tem* informed the classis that each of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America would be taken individually.

1. Adoption of “Order for Christian Marriage” as part of the Liturgy of the Reformed Church in America.
 - Discussion: Clarification on what a YES and NO vote would mean.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the NOs have the vote.
 - Amendment **DEFEATED**
2. Supervision of Candidates for Ministry who are Not Members of a Local Church
 - Discussion: Pros and Cons
 - Voice vote – indeterminate
 - The President called for a rising vote.
 - 14 – YES; 18 – NO – the President declared the NOs have the vote.
 - Amendment **DEFEATED**
3. Marriages Solemnized in a Church or Congregation
 - Discussion: None.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the NOs have the vote.
 - Amendment **DEFEATED**
4. Regional Synod Responsibilities
 - Discussion: Clarification was asked on where this came from. Noted the wording is vague.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the YESs have the vote.
 - Amendment **CARRIED**
5. Appointment of Candidates to Churches without Installed Ministers
 - Discussion: None.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the YESs have the vote.
 - Amendment **CARRIED**
6. Church Membership
 - Discussion: None.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the YESs have the vote.
 - Amendment **CARRIED**

7. Appendix, Formulary No. 5, and Related Constitutional Provisions
- Discussion: Clarification on what are the practical points of this.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the YESs have the vote.
 - Amendment **CARRIED**.

The final vote count was: Amendments 1, 2, 3 – NO; Amendments 4, 5, 6, 7 – YES.

The Clerk *pro tem* informed the Classis that pursuant to *Book of Church Order* Chapter 1, Part II, Article 7, Section 1, that the Classis would engage in the annual discussion of the questions stated in this section. The President directed members of classis to pair up and interrogate one another after the clerk read each question. Sections 1 a, b, and c were read. The President determined that points d-m were covered in the Consistorial Reports and were not questioned.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was absent so no Treasurer's report was received.

Reports from Committees:

Executive Committee: The President noted that the Executive Committee was advancing four recommendations. As they were advanced by the Executive Committee, they became automatic motions before the body to be acted on.

The President informed the Classis that the Executive Committee was recommending the Rev. L. De Kruif to stand for election as the single slate candidate to the office of Stated Clerk.

R-1: To elect the Rev. Lindsey De Kruif to the office of Stated Clerk for a term of three years, effective upon adjournment of this meeting. **(ADOPTED)**

The President informed the classis that a formal thanks for C. Troost's years of service would happen at a later date.

The President presented R-2:

R-2: To direct the Ministry Oversight Committee 1 & Ministry Oversight Committee 2 to develop a single, consistent Classis-wide policy that mandates background checks for all enrolled ministers within the classis, as well as all ministers, preaching elders, and commissioned pastors serving classis churches, with report back to the Classis in May 2017 for ratification. **(ADOPTED)**

The President presented R-3:

R-3: To approve the six proposed changes to the bylaws of Schenectady Classis, for ratification at the May 2017 Classis Meeting. **(ADOPTED)**

The President asked for will of the Classis in determining if these changes could be considered separately or together. The consent was to consider all together.

It was noted that the May 2017 meeting would need a 2/3 ratification to formally amend the bylaws of the Classis.

The President presented R-4:

R-4: To direct the Stated Clerk of Schenectady Classis to submit Overtures 1, 2, and 3 to the office of the General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America. (substituted)

The President ruled that each overture would be considered individually.

1. **R-4a:** Implementation of “process of learning”
 - Discussion: Noted the vagueness.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the YESs have the vote.
 - Motion **CARRIED.**
2. **R-4b:** Address communicative breakdown in the denomination
 - Discussion: It was discussed if the classis could overture the Regional Synod to have the Regional Synod send the matter with better language.
 - Voice vote – indeterminate.
 - The President called for a rising vote.
 - 22 – Y, 11 – N – the President declared the YESs have the vote.
 - Motion **CARRIED**
3. **R-4c:** General Synod Minutes
 - Discussion: None.
 - Voice vote – the President declared the YESs have it.
 - Motion **CARRIED.**

All three overtures will be submitted to the office of the General Secretary by clerk-Elect, L. De Kruif.

Ministry Oversight 1 Committee: Written report. No further comments.

Ministry Oversight 2 Committee: Written report. No further comments.

Church Supervision Committee: Written report. No further comments.

Search and Supervision Committee: Written report. No further comments.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Adjournment: The President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM following prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck
Clerk of Classis *Pro Tem*