

**The Minutes of
the Stated Session of
The Reverend Classis of Schenectady
October 23, 2018 — 7:00 PM
Bellevue Reformed Church, Schenectady**

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Enrolled Ministers: K. Busman (President), A. Reilly (Vice President), L. De Kruif (clerk), J. Bosman, D. Carlson, J. deVelder, S. Duensing, J. Fulkerson, M. Hodgins, J. Marvel, K. McHeard, J. Legg, W. Levering, R. Scheenstra, M. van Maastricht, J. Vanderbeck, Ja. White., Jo. White, J. Legg.

Elder Delegates: B. Lewis (FRC Schenectady), J. Healey (Helderberg), T. DeJong (Fort Miller), A. Deyoe (Old Saratoga), T. Flynn (Amity), K. Britain (Woestina), T. Knutti (Cobblestone), P. Lansing (Amity), K. Mix (Lynnwood), K. Hayner (West Glenville), T. Pangburn (Altamont), J. Pettis (Bacon Hill), D. Schalekamp (Scotia), M. Rand (Lisha's Kill), Adrienne Westfall (Trinity), K. Hileman (Bellevue), D. Synder (Christ Community), M. Leach (FRC Schenectady), T. Lehner (Niskayuna), L. L. Lumbra (Trinity)

Retired Ministers: None

Preaching Elders: C. Jackson, J. Moak, M. Rand, L. Smith

Candidates: Rev. Liam Battjes

Guests: Rev. John Hoperich (minister under contract, Amity), David Walsh, Kay Grosch, Mark Fuez, Rev. Abby Norton-Levering (Synod of Albany)

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: L. VanderWal, S. Midge, H. Kramer

ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE: J. Bork, B. Doolittle, B. Harringa (Cobblestone), T. McCrossan, J. Meyer Vincent, M. Sanders (Fort Miller), W. Schutter, R.G. Szantner

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Call to Order by President Busman at 7:32 PM.

The President called for a quorum. Clerk De Kruif declared a quorum. The President appointed Elders David Walsh and David Schalekamp (FRC Scotia) as tellers for the duration of the meeting.

The president asked for a motion to give privilege of the floor to guests of the classis. A motion was made and supported from the floor to give privilege of the floor to guests.

Voted R1018-1: To grant privilege of the floor to guests of classis. (APPROVED)

Approval of the Agenda: The clerk made note of additions to be added to the agenda.

The President asked for a motion to approve the agenda with additions. A motion was made and supported from the floor to approve the agenda.

Voted R-1018-2: to approve agenda with additions. (APPROVED)

Approval of the Minutes: In reviewing the minutes, the president highlighted the action of classis in adopting a statement on non-discrimination at the previous meeting. The President asked a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2018 Stated Session. Motion from floor and seconded.

Voted R-1018-3: To approve the minutes of the May 2018 Stated Session with corrections. (APPROVED)

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda was presented and included reports on the Church Supervision and Oversight Committee, and the Synod Ministries Board. The President asked for a motion from the floor to receive the reports presented. A motion was made and seconded.

Voted R-1018-4: To receive the reports presented in the consent agenda. (APPROVED)

Reports on Synod Ministries Board Grants: The classis approved grant requests for Christ Community Reformed Church (May 2018) and Helderberg and Altamont Reformed Churches (July 2018 by Executive Committee). CCRC grant is being used to support the creation of a Little Free Pantry located on church property. Elder David Synder that funds are remaining from the grant and these will be used to stock the pantry. Funds have also been used to print flyers to spread word about the pantry at the local schools and in the neighborhood. The pantry is reportedly used by members of the community and donations are left by community members well. Seventh and eighth grade students in the congregation maintain the pantry from week to week.

Helderberg and Altamont Reformed Churches received grant funding for a combined consistory workshop on Caring for Inactive Members. Rev. Lindsey De Kruif reported the workshop was well received by those in attendance and it has opened up conversation about care in each congregation.

Presentation on the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region

Preaching Elder Kitt Jackson shared with classis about the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Regional. The Community Loan Fund a non-profit community development financial institution serving the Capital Region of New York State, serving 11 counties, including those where there

are classis congregations. Pooled investments are used to support a number of community development projects throughout the Capital Region. These include affordable housing, business start-ups (particularly women and minorities), and individual home ownership and repair. The Community Loan Fund is an opportunity for congregations to invest back into their community. A flyer was shared with more information about the loan fund.

General Synod Report:

Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck, who served as a delegate to the 2018 General Synod held in Grand Rapids, MI presented a report from Synod. Rev. Vanderbeck highlighted the formation of the 20/20 Vision task force, noting that the formation of this group early on in Synod eased some of the current tensions within the Synod. This task force will consider possible futures for the RCA. He also noted the addition of Interfaith Staff in the Middle East, the “We Are Speaking” Statement, speaking out against sexual harassment, by the Synod, and the diversity of leadership with the election of Rev. Eddy Aleman as General Secretary (the first Latino) and Elder Jame Nakakihara as President (the first Asian American).

Clerk Items:

The Clerk noted the rotation of delegates to the 2019 General Synod in Holland, MI, June 6-11. Rev. Jason White, Rev. Ben Dolittle are next on the rotation to be appointed minister delegates. Rev. Joyce deVelder and Rev. Jeremy Bork are alternates. Churches to appoint elder delegates for the 2019 General Synod are West Glenville and Fort Miller. Alternates are First Reformed, Scotia, and Bacon Hill.

The Clerk noted the rotation of delegates to the 2019 Regional Synod of Albany at Camp Fowler, May 5-6. Rev. Jeremy Bork, Rev. Megan Hodgins, Rev. Matthew van Maastrich, and Rev. Stacey Duensing are next on the rotation to be appointed minister delegates. Rev. Jennifer Legg and Rev. Tom McCrossan are alternates. Churches to appoint elder delegates for the 2019 Regional Synod are West Glenville, Fort Miller, First Scotia, and Bacon Hill. Alternates are Cobblestone and Bellevue.

The Clerk thanked all ministers for completing their background check application. To date, all currently enrolled ministers have completed background checks. The Overtures and Judicial Business will be tasked with creating procedure for following up on background checks and renewing checks in the future.

The Clerk noted that the Commission on Nominations is seek nominations for RCA Commissions. Individuals interested in being nominated are to fill out a profile at www.rca.org/profile.

The Clerk noted the dates of the 2019 stated sessions of classis will be held on February 26, 2019 at Altamont Reformed Church, on May 28, 2019 at Trinity Reformed Church, and on October 22, 2019 at Lynnwood Reformed Church.

The Clerk presented the 2018 Consistorial Inquiry Report to be received by classis and be entered into the minutes. The president asked for a motion to receive the 2018 Consistorial Report to be entered in to the classis minutes. A motion was made and seconded.

VOTED: R-1018-5 To receive the 2018 Consistorial Inquiry Report inclusion in the minutes of classis. (APPROVED).

See Addendum A for the report at the end of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

The September 2018 Financial Report was received. A motion was made to receive this report and seconded.

VOTED: R-1018-6: To receive the September 2018 Financial Report. (APPROVED)

The budget for 2019 was presented. Classis assessments for 2019 will be \$13.92. A motion was made to approve the budget and seconded.

VOTED: R-1018-7: To approve the 2019 Classis of Schenectady budget.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

President Busman announced the resignation of Treasure Jim Burnetter as of December 31, 2018 and offered the below resolution honoring Jim for his service. The classis voted that the resolution be spread across the minutes of the Reverend Schenectady Classis.

VOTED: R-1018-8: That the following resolution be spread across the minutes of the Reverend Schenectady Classis

Resolution of Thanksgiving and Affirmation for the service and ministry of Mr. James Burnetter

WHEREAS the Reverend Schenectady Classis is an assembly and judicatory within the Reformed Church in America;

WHEREAS the classis is served by a treasurer who is elected by the classis and serves as an officer of classis;

WHEREAS the treasurer ensures the business of classis is conducted in a faithful and orderly manner;

WHEREAS Mr. James Burnetter, an ordained deacon of the Christ Community Reformed Church of Clifton Park has faithfully served the Reverend Schenectady Classis as its treasurer for the past nine years;

WHEREAS the ministry of the Reverend Schenectady Classis has been

blessed and strengthened by the work of Mr. Burnetter;

WHEREAS millions of dollars in collective budgets have passed through the watchful eye of Mr. Burnetter and nary a penny gone missing;

WHEREAS countless consistories, treasurers, and ministers, upon facing financial crisis were able to afford themselves of Mr. Burnetter's knowledgeable and calming presence in the midst of anxiety;

WHEREAS throughout several church transitions and closures Mr. Burnetter has ensured the protection of the blessings of financial resources given to Christ's church and has faithfully stewarded these blessings into further resources to serve the world around us; THEREFORE be it:

RESOLVED, that the Reverend Schenectady Classis:

offers profound thanks and gratitude to Mr. James Burnetter for his years of dedicated service to the denomination, classis, and local congregation in his work as treasurer of the Reverend Schenectady Classis.

Done this day in stated session of the Reverend Schenectady Classis, on the twenty-third of October, the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen. (APPROVED)

President Busman presented the 2019 Clergy Compensation Guidelines for approval by the classis. The guidelines included a 2.7% cost of living increase, changes to utility benefits, as well as the addition of a Family Leave Policy.

VOTED: R-1018-9 To approve the 2019 Clergy Compensation Guidelines. (APPROVED)

Clerk De Kruif presented on behalf of the Executive Committee, a resolution honoring Rev. Scott de Block, who transferred to Albany Presbytery last year. The classis voted that the following resolution be spread across the minutes of the Reverend Schenectady Classis.

VOTED: R-1018-10 That the following resolution be spread across the minutes of the Reverend Schenectady Classis

Resolution of Thanksgiving and Affirmation for the service and ministry of the Reverend Doctor Scott DeBlock

WHEREAS the Reverend Schenectady Classis is an assembly and judicatory within the Reformed Church in America;

WHEREAS the classis is the body that oversees and cares for ministers and churches in its care;

WHEREAS the Reverend Doctor Scott DeBlock, now an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) has faithfully served in the bounds of this classis as a Reformed Church;

WHEREAS the Reverend Doctor DeBlock has, in fact, been a member of this classis since November 5, 1995 and served faithfully at the Niskayuna Reformed Church for almost 20 years;

WHEREAS the Reverend Doctor DeBlock has sat on countless committees, notably helping navigate our classis through some extremely difficult times;

WHEREAS the Reverend Doctor DeBlock has modeled faithful ecumenism by serving our classis as a specialized minister to Presbyterian Churches in need and transition and now has come under the care of our siblings in Christ in the Albany Presbytery; THEREFORE be it:

RESOLVED, that the Reverend Schenectady Classis:

offers profound thanks and gratitude to the Reverend Doctor Scott DeBlock for his years of dedicated service to the denomination, classis, and local congregation and send him forth with our blessing into these new endeavors with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Done this day in stated session of the Reverend Schenectady Classis, on the twenty-third of October, the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen. (APPROVED)

Ministry Oversight Committee:

Chair Busman presented the work the committee is doing on a Preaching Elder program. With the loss of the Capital Region Theological Center, there is not local training available for preaching elders. The proposed program would involve preaching elders and candidates taking courses offered through local congregations, retreats, or individual study. The committee is focusing on how to support current preaching elders as well as train new preaching elders.

Rev. Megan Hodgins, representing the committee, came forward to present Rev. Liam Battjes for transfer into the classis. Rev. Battjes was formally a member of Holland Classis until he was transferred to the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, MI. Rev. Battjes is currently serving as the Director of Christian Development at First

Reformed in Schenectady. Since Rev. Battjes was not transferring from a body of churches and had previously been ordained in the RCA, the Ministry Oversight committee sought references and met with him for an interview. Upon determining his fitness for ministry the committee offered to classis the following recommendation: To receive the Reverend Liam Battjes into the Classis of Schenectady and welcome him to live and work among us as a servant and minister of the Word of God.

Upon receiving the recommendation, the classis moved into a time of examination with the candidate, asking him questions relevant to his fitness for ministry within the classis. Once questioning had ceased on the classis floor, the classis went into Executive Session to discuss and vote on the recommendation.

There was no discussion, and the classis immediately voted.

VOTED: R-1018-11 To receive the Reverend Liam Battjes into the Classis of Schenectady and welcome him to live and work among us as a servant and minister of the Word of God. (APPROVED)

The candidate and guests were welcomed back in the room. The classis welcomed Rev. Battjes with applause and he was invited to read and sign the Declaration of Ministry. Upon reading the Declaration, Rev. Battjes was presented a stole by Rev. Bill Levering, minister at FRC Schenectady. Rev. Levering also prayed for Rev. Battjes as he begins his ministry among the classis.

Overtures and Judicial Business:

Chair Jonathan Vanderbeck noted the changes to the Book of Church Order, which will be voted upon at the February 2019 Stated Session. The committee has prepared advice on these proposed changes.

Chair Vanderbeck continued the report with the following recommendations to the bylaws of classis;

R-10-18-12 To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article I. Classis Defined

(...)

Article III. Sessions of Classis

Sec. I. Special Session ~~are-on~~ shall be the fourth...

(...)

Article IV. Officers of Classis and Elections

(...)

Sec. 2 Election of officers shall be undertaken as follows:

b. Elections will be held at the May stated sessions of classis or, if there is a vacancy, ~~as described in Article IV, Sec. 4b below.~~

Sec. 8 The Treasurer shall:

d. Prepare draft income and expense budgets for the Operations Executive Committee.

(...)

Article IX. Church Oversight and Supervision Committee

(...)

Sec. 2 The duties of the chairperson are to:

a. Assist classis in fulfilling the requirements of the Book of Church Order Chapter 1, Part II, Article 7 regarding the superintendence of the churches ~~(Article 7).~~

VOTED: As stated above (APPROVED)

R-1018-13: To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article IV. Officers of Classis and Elections

(...)

Sec. 2 Election of officers shall be undertaken as follows:

a. All enrolled ministers and all elders of classis churches are eligible for election, except those who are under discipline. In addition, all ~~deacons~~ confessing members of classis churches are eligible for election to the Office of Treasurer.

The classis discussed and the suggestion was made that the classis consider adding term limits for clerk and treasurer, particularly as a new treasurer will soon begin. No amendment was made at this time.

VOTED: As stated above (APPROVED)

R1018-14 To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article V. Transaction of Business

(...)

Sec. 6 *Any enrolled minister, consistory, or elder delegate may bring business before the classis in the form of an overture. All overtures shall automatically be reviewed by the Overtures and Judicial Business Committee of classis who shall present recommendations in response to the overtures.*

Sec. 7 *All overtures must be received by the Stated Clerk no later than two weeks prior to the Stated Session at which the overture may be considered.*

Article X. Overtures and Judicial Business Committee

(...)

Sec. 2

b. *Review all overtures and correspondences coming from consistories or classis members and offer recommendations in regards to their content.*

The classis discussed. Concern was raised about business that may be brought to classis in the two week window prior to the stated session. Chair Vanderbeck addressed the concern, pointing out that the Overtures and Judicial Business Committee would communicate the business brought but may choose not to address it. The classis could vote to deny the committee's recommendation.

VOTED: As stated above (APPROVED).

R-1018-15 To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article VI. Executive Committee of Classis

Sec. 1. *The membership of the Executive Committee ~~will~~ shall consist of the:*

- a. President of the classis*
- b. Vice President of the classis*
- c. Stated Clerk of the classis*

- d. *Treasurer of the classis*
- e. *Chairperson of each of the permanent committees ~~defined below~~ of the classis as defined by these bylaws.*
- f. *Immediate Past President of the classis.*

Sec. 2 Officers:

The officers of the Executive Committee shall be: chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary

- a. **The Immediate Past President of the classis shall be chairperson of the Executive Committee**
- b. **The Vice President of the classis shall be vice-chairperson of the Executive Committee and assume the duties of the chairperson if the chairperson is absent**
- c. **The Stated Clerk of the classis shall be the secretary of the Executive Committee and keep a faithful record of the business of the Executive Committee.**

VOTED: As stated above. (APPROVED)

R-1018-16 To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article VI. Executive Committee of Classis

(...)

Sec. 3. *Transaction of Business*

- a. **The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of Classis between stated sessions, unless otherwise required by the Constitution or these bylaws.**
- b. **The Executive Committee shall not originate any business before it, but only that which is within its defined roles as stated in these bylaws.**

c. The Executive Committee may consider business addressed to it by means of electronic communication (phone, e-mail, fax). The quorum required for consideration of such business shall be a majority of the seated membership of the Executive Committee and at least 48 hours shall be given to respond to such business following support given to the motion. The consideration of this business must be within the defined roles of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The Executive Committee shall Duties of the Executive Committee:

~~a. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of Classis between stated sessions, unless otherwise required by the Constitution or these bylaws.~~

~~b. Develop the agendas for stated and special sessions of classis.~~

(...)

~~e. Advise the President on nominations of people to serve on the Operations Committee.~~

(...)

g. Solicit nominations and present a single-slate of candidates for officers.

h. Approve or deny grant requests from consistories and submit to appropriate assemblies as required.

i. Approve or deny requests of ministers to transfer into the classis by other assemblies, including acting to approve or deny contracts and calls presented by consistories regarding said ministers when such requests come between Stated Sessions of classis

(all sections renumbered appropriately)

The classis discussed. Concern was raised about handling sensitive topics by video conference. The chair noted that the electronic means of meeting do not include video conferencing as proposed.

VOTED: As stated above. (APPROVED)

R-1018-17: To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article VII. Committees of Classis

(...)

Sec. 2

c. Each committee shall present a written report to the classis at each stated session and to the Executive Committee as requested.

VOTED: As stated above. (APPROVED)

R-1018-18: To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article VIII. Ministry Oversight Committee: Commissioning, Certification, Licensure, and Ordination

Sec. 1. Membership

- a. The Ministry Oversight Committee shall consist of 5-7 members.*
- b. At least one member shall be an elder ~~lay leader as defined below~~*
- c. The terms of office shall be 3-year terms. These may be renewed and/or be staggered to allow for continuation of leadership.*

VOTED: As stated above (APPROVED).

R-1018-19: To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article I. Classis Defined

(...)

Sec. 4. *The Classis of Schenectady celebrates the wide diversity of people within its bounds. As such, the classis does not discriminate against its candidates, members and delegates on the basis of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability nor does it prevent consistories and congregations from holding differing views on matters of same-sex marriage and affirmation of LGBTQ+ persons.*

No discussion was held and the classis went immediately to a vote.

VOTED: As stated above. (APPROVED)

R-1018-20: To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article I. Classis Defined

(...)

Sec. 5. *If individual members of the classis find that their consciences, as illuminated by Scripture, would not permit them to participate in the licensure, ordination or installation of LGBTQ+ persons as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they shall not be required to participate in decisions or actions contrary to their consciences, but may not obstruct the classis in fulfilling its responsibility to arrange for the care, ordination, and installation of LGBTQ+ candidates and ministers by means mutually agreed on by such persons and the classis.*

The classis discussed. Questions were raised about the means of obstruction that might be used. The chair noted that this would include constitutional means such as a formal complaint against the classis.

VOTED: As stated above. (APPROVED)

R-1018-21: To approve the following amendments to the *Bylaws* of the Reverend Schenectady Classis on first reading and for submission to the February 2019 Stated Session for final approval. (underlines insertions, ~~strikethroughs~~ deletions):

Article IX. Church Oversight and Supervision Committee

Sec. 1. Membership

- a. *The committee will consist of a chairperson appointed by the Classis Executive Committee president, and members suitable to the need for supervision of congregations who shall make up supervisory teams, who are recommended by the chairperson and appointed by the president. The chairperson shall delegate from within Classis, a sufficient number of supervisory teams to meet the needs of consistories within the Classis.*
- b. **The term of office of the chairperson shall be renewable in 3 year increments. ~~The number of active supervision teams will be based on need, as determined by events.~~**
- c. **The term of office of the members of the committee other than the chairperson shall be from time of appointment by the President until such time that supervision is no longer needed.**

VOTED: As stated above. (APPROVED)

The report of the OJB concluded with thanks from the president for the prolific work of this committee.

Old Business: No old business presented.

New Business:

Niskayuna Synod Grant Request:

Rev. Jason Fulkerson of Niskayuna Reformed Church brought before the classis a grant request to be approved for submission to the Regional Synod. This grant requests funding in part for the salary of a Christian Education Director for the congregation. This position has already been fulfilled and the congregation is able to pay the salary in full for the remainder of 2018. Funding will be spread across three years, and the congregation hopes to transition the Christian Education position from 20 hours per week to full-time at the end of those three years. Rev. Fulkerson thanked Elder Trudy Lehner for volunteer work, “preparing the way,” in this role while they searched for a staff member.

A motion was made from the floor and seconded to approve the grant request of Niskayuna Reformed Church to be sent to the Regional Synod of Albany.

VOTED: To approve the grant request of Niskayuna Reformed Church to be sent to the Regional Synod of Albany for consideration. (APPROVED)

The clerk made note about a Boundaries Awareness training event planned by the Executive Committee to be held on Friday, January 25 from 9:00 am to 1:00 PM. David Olsen of Samaritan Counseling will lead the training. A location is yet to be arranged.

Adjournment:

The president called for the meeting to adjourn following closing prayer and affirmations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm with closing prayer by the president.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lindsey De Kruijff, Stated Clerk

ADDENDUM A
2018 Constitutional Inquiry Report
Classis of Schenectady

“The classis shall annually engage the ministers and elder delegates in a review of the ministry of the separate congregations by addressing the following questions. The answers shall be entered in the minutes of classis for the information of the synods.” *The Book of Church Order*, Chapter 1, Part II, Article 7, Sec. 1 (page 28).

- | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| 1. Are the doctrines of the gospel preached in your church in conformity with | YES | |
| i. the Word of God? | __9__ | __0__ (1) |
| ii. the Standards of the Reformed Church in America? | | |
| | | |
| 2. Are the points of doctrine contained in the Heidelberg Catechism explained in your church as required by the <i>Book of Church Order (BCO)</i> (Chapter 1, Part I, Article 2, Sec. 11f, p. 16)? | __9__ | __0__ (2) |
| | | |
| 3. Has your consistory considered the nature and extent of the ministry of the congregation in accordance with the <i>BCO</i> (Chapter 1, Part I, Article 2, Sec. 1, p.13)? | __9__ | __0__ (3) |
| | | |
| How do you do this? | __9__ | __0__ (4) |
| | | |
| 4. Is your church engaged in significant, regular activities which faithfully witness to the gospel and which encourage others to respond to God’s Spirit in commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? | | |
| | | |
| 5. Does your church contribute annually and significantly in its prayers, gifts, and service to the mission of the Reformed Church in America? | __9__ | __0__ (5) |
| | | |
| 6. Does the consistory provide for worship, including the celebration of the sacraments, in accordance with the requirements of the <i>BCO</i> (Chapter 1, Part I, Article 2, Sec. 11, p.15)? | __9__ | __0__ (6) |
| | | |
| 7. Does the consistory regularly review the activities of the church in order that the congregation and those whom it serves may become more faithful in their walk as disciples of the Lord Jesus? | __9__ | __0__ (7) |
| | | |
| 8. Is the education of the young people in the essential truths of the Word of God faithfully attended to in your congregation? | __9__ | __0__ (8) |

NO

- | | YES | NO | |
|---|-------|-------|------|
| 9. Has the consistory prayerfully considered persons within the congregation, particularly young people, in order to identify with them their spiritual gifts, especially the gift for ministry of Word and sacrament; to encourage the development of these gifts; and to pray for those individuals on a regular basis? | __7__ | __2__ | (9) |
| 10. Does the board of elders fulfill its responsibilities of supervision and discipline as set forth in the <i>BCO</i> (Chapter 1, Part I, Article 5, p. 20-22)? | __8__ | __1__ | (10) |
| 11. Does the board of deacons fulfill its responsibilities in mercy, service, and outreach as set forth in the <i>BCO</i> (Chapter 1, Part I, Article 6, p. 22)? | __9__ | __0__ | (11) |
| 12. Does the consistory regularly engage its minister/s in a mutual reflection on the ministerial needs and challenges of the congregation? | __9__ | __0__ | (12) |
| 13. Do the salary, housing, arrangements for professional development, and all other benefits received by the minister/s meet the terms of the original call or contract, subsequent revisions thereof, and the minimum standards of the classis? | __8__ | __1__ | (13) |

No response was received from the following congregations:

- First Reformed Church of Rotterdam
- Amity Reformed Church
- First Reformed Church of West Glenville
- Fort Miller Reformed Church
- Bacon Hill Reformed Church
- Second Reformed Church of Rotterdam
- Lisha's Kill Reformed Church