

Classis Iakota
Special Session via Zoom Conference Call
MINUTES
June 9, 2020

Art. 3544: The meeting begins with Drew Hoekema, the Chairperson for the meeting, reading Romans 12:1-16 and offering prayer.

Art. 3545: A few minutes are taken by Drew Hoekema and John Lee, the Zoom manager, to point out various features of a Zoom video conference.

Art. 3546: Presentation of Credentials and Roll Call

<u>Churches</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Corsica			
Harrison	Gary Maas		
Inwood	Adam Eisenga	Nathan Nieuwendorp	
New Holland	John Gorter	Jerry Baan Hofman	
Platte	Drew Hoekema	Wilmer Niewenhuis	
Rapid City – Hope			
Rock Rapids		Todd De Weerd*	
Rock Valley – Calvin		Jeff Veldman*	
		Galen Van Maanen	
Rock Valley – First	Matthew Haan	Kevin Jansma	
Rock Valley – Trinity	Stanley Groothof	Brad Vis	
Amistad Cristiana			
Sioux Center – Bethel	John Lee	Doug Vreugdenhil	
Sioux Center – Bridge of Hope		Robb De Haan	Daren Dielman Tim Foreman
Sioux Center – Covenant	Joel Kok	Jeff Ploegstra*	
Sioux Center – Faith	Dave Smit	John Olthoff	
Sioux Center – First		Will Maas	
		Mark Sybesma	
Sioux Center – Lebanon		Verlyn Dekkers	
		Harry Dekkers	
Sioux Falls – Cornerstone Prison	Doug De Groot	Gordon Dyk	
Sioux Falls – First	Cal Hoogendoorn	Mark Veurink	
Sioux Falls – Shalom	Kyle De Young	Dan Breen*	
Valentine – Lakeview			

*Indicates first time delegates who affirmed the Covenant for Officebearers upon the Chairperson’s reading of the Covenant

Art. 3547: Classis is declared constituted. Matthew Haan serves as Vice-chair and Bernie Haan as Clerk for the meeting.

Art. 3548: The Chair welcomes the delegates, the synodical deputies, and Joel De Boer.

Art. 3549: The joint request of the Bridge of Hope CRC in Sioux Center, Iowa and Rev. Joel De Boer (see Agenda, pp. 2-4) is submitted to release Rev. De Boer from active ministerial service at Bridge of Hope CRC in accordance with Church Order Article 17, and is acted upon in executive session.

[The following is a summary of the actions taken by classis. The more detailed minutes of the executive session are on file with the stated clerk and may be accessed only upon request from and approval by the Classical Interim Committee.]

A. Motion that classis support the joint request of Bridge of Hope and Rev. Joel De Boer to release Rev. De Boer from active ministerial service at Bridge of Hope in accordance with Church Order Article 17.

-Adopted

- B. **Motion** that classis approve the joint separation agreement between Bridge of Hope and Rev. Joel De Boer in accordance with the guidelines stated in Church Order Article 17, Appendix A. The severance package will be for 4 months – wages and housing allowance – to begin June 9, 2020 with an additional 2 months of health insurance and 6 counseling sessions for Joel and Deb provided by the church. *-Adopted*
- C. **Motion** that classis aid Rev. Joel De Boer in healing by appointing “an oversight committee of no few than three persons to plan and monitor a readiness for the ministry that focuses on professional competence and personal and emotional status” (Article 17a, Church Order Supplement). The CIC shall appoint the members of this team, which will further clarify their mandate based on a forthcoming PCR report. *-Adopted*
- D. **Motion** that classis aid the Bridge of Hope congregation in its healing by shepherding it through a process of evaluation and assistance before extending another call. The Classical Interim Committee shall appoint an oversight committee composed of at least three persons. The committee will refine its mandate with input from Pastor Church Resources. This oversight committee shall recommend to classis the readiness of the congregation to extend a call, with the final decision resting with classis per Article 17, Church Order Supplement. *-Adopted*
- E. The Synodical Deputies concur with the decisions of classis.

Art. 3550: The Classical Interim Committee Report is presented by Stanley Groot Hof (see Agenda, p.5-6).

- A. **Motion** to approve the work of the Classical Interim Committee *-Adopted*

Art. 3551: The request from the Covenant CRC of Sioux Center pertaining to Church Order Article 12c and Dr. Justin Bailey is presented.

- A. Rev. Joel Kok speaks on behalf of the Covenant CRC council, providing some background and answering any questions the delegates and synodical deputies might have about the documents which were provided (see the addendum).
- B. **Motion** that classis recognize Dr. Justin’s Bailey’s work as an Assistant Professor of Theology at Dordt University is consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word. *-Adopted*
- C. The Synodical Deputies concur with the decisions of classis.

Art. 3552: Gary Maas leads the delegates in a closing prayer.

Art.3553: The Chairperson declares the meeting adjourned.

Rev. Bernie Haan
Stated Clerk

Addendum:

Church Order Article 12c Fulfillment
Regarding the Ordination Process for Justin Bailey

To: Delegates of Classis Iakota and Synodical Deputies for the meeting on June 9, 2020
From: The Council of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center, Iowa
Re: Article 12-c in relation to Justin Bailey
Date: June 2, 2020

Dear Friend in Christ,

Please accept this letter as our fulfillment of Article 12-c in relation to the ordination process of Dr. Justin Bailey. We propose that Dr. Bailey's work as a professor in the Theology Department of Dordt University "relates directly to the calling of a minister" and "is consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word." (Article 12-c) To support this proposition, we offer the following information in accordance with the Church Order Supplement for Article 12-c.

1. In the job description given below, delegates and deputies can see that in his work, Dr. Bailey speaks to bring biblical and church teachings to bear on the academy in our society and in our culture as a whole. As a professor at Dordt University, Dr. Bailey does his work in accord with biblical and Reformed teachings. As Dr. Bailey combines his work as a professor with his calling as a minister of the Word, he will stand in line with a long tradition of ordained professors of theology.
2. In the proposed letter of call given below the job description, delegates and deputies can see the "evidence that the minister will be directly responsible to the calling church." (Supplement, Article 12-c, a. 2) Both Covenant Christian Reformed Church and Dordt University have standards that include reporting and supervision, and we will carry these out in partnership with one another.
3. We believe that Dr. Bailey's work at Dordt is "consistent with the calling as a minister of the Word." (Supplement, Article 12-c, a. 3) In both his work as a professor and in his participation in the church, Dr. Bailey fulfills Church Order Article 11, which states: "The calling of a minister of the Word is to proclaim, explain, and apply Holy Scripture in order to gather in and equip the members so that the church of Christ may be built up." Dr. Bailey has built up the body of Christ at Covenant in countless ways already. His ordination will serve as a means for God to multiply that blessing.

Job Description for Justin Bailey

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Fuller Seminary
- Th.M. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- M.Div. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- B.A. Moody Bible Institute
-

OVERVIEW

I work at the intersection of Christian theology, culture, and ministry. Having served as a pastor in a number of diverse settings, my work as a professor explores the ways that culture shapes the practice of Christian faith, as well as the ways that the Christian imagination shapes believers to participate in culture. My research seeks to bridge gaps between church and academy, exploring the formational spaces where they overlap. As a theology professor at Dordt, I resonate deeply with Dordt's task and calling to provide an academically rigorous and culturally engaged education, shaped deeply by the Reformed theological vision.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Cultural hermeneutics, Imaginative apologetics, Protestant aesthetics, Spiritual Formation, Technology and Media, Faith and Doubt

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- *Reimagining Apologetics*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic [under contract; forthcoming]
- "The Impact of Social Media" in Hak Joon Lee and Timothy A. Dearborn, eds. *Doing Justice: Diverse Responses to Divisive Issues*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic [under contract; forthcoming].
- "Welcome to the Blogosphere," in *Everyday Theology*. Eds. Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Charles Anderson and Michael Sleasman. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- "The Theodramatic Imagination." *International Journal of Public Theology*: 12 (2018), 455–470
- "The Body in Cyberspace: Lanier, Merleau-Ponty, and the Norms of Embodiment." *Christian Scholars Review* 45, no. 3 (2016): 211-228. ***Awarded the Charles J. Miller award for most outstanding article in volume 45***
- "In Search of Stronger Spells." *Inheritance Magazine*, Volume 53. Los Angeles, CA, 2017.

COURSES TAUGHT

- Kingdom, Identity, and Calling
- Biblical Foundations
- Biblical Study Methods
- New Testament Letters
- Teaching the Bible
- Spiritual Formation
- Gospel, Church, and Culture
- Theology and Popular Culture
- Leadership for Discipleship and Formation
- Aesthetics: Beauty, Desire, and Imagination

JOB DESCRIPTION from Dordt University

DEPARTMENT: Theology

POSITION TYPE: Full-Time Faculty

START DATE: January 2017 or August 2017

PURPOSE OF POSITION: Teach courses in Youth Ministry, Discipleship and Formation; Core courses in Theology

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Personal commitment to a Reformed Christian perspective and the ability to articulate that perspective well in the context of teaching theology.
- Personal endorsement of *The Educational Task of Dordt College* and the commitment to the curricular design set forth in *The Educational Framework of Dordt College*.
- A Ph.D. or Th.D. in Theology or related area, ABD considered.
- Competent to teach courses in youth ministry, adolescent studies, spiritual formation, and popular culture, as well as core courses in theology. Competency or potential to teach in the areas of discipleship and Christian ethics are also a plus.
- Demonstrated excellence in college teaching, including instructional design and dynamic classroom management, and continual assessment of student learning.
- Demonstrated scholarly ability (or potential for scholarship) to develop and communicate insight into topics related to youth ministry.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with churches and para-church organizations in guiding the training of effective leaders in youth ministry and other Christian ministry.
- Mature interpersonal, collaborative, and oral and written communication skills that indicate the ability to work effectively with students, faculty and staff, community members, and other professionals.
- Desire to further the mission of Dordt College through collaborative student recruitment and retention efforts, student advising, campus and community service, and ongoing professional and program development.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Teach courses in youth ministry, adolescent studies, spiritual formation, and popular culture, as well as core courses in Theology.
- Participate as a full team member in department and college administrative tasks including curriculum development and review, assessment, development of new initiatives, student recruiting and advising, and committee assignments.
- Participate in the Core Program and campus life of Dordt College.
- Develop and implement a personal annual contribution and professional development plan consistent with college and departmental goals; use the plan as part of regular self-assessment.

Proposed Letter of Call for Justin Bailey

Dear Brother Justin,

The Council of the Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa, has the honor and pleasure of extending you a call, on behalf of our congregation, to serve as a Minister of the Word in the Dordt University Department of Theology. The Church Order Article 13-b describes the joint supervision in which you, as an ordained Minister of the Word in the CRC, will be accountable to the council of Covenant CRC for your doctrine and life, and to Dordt University for the performance of all of your faculty duties.

This action was taken at our meeting held on _____20__.

Our delegates reported that Classis _____, at its meeting on _____, reviewed your Job Description for this ministry and found it consistent with your ordination as Minister of the Word.

It is our understanding that all financial arrangements regarding your moving costs, salary, social security costs, health, dental and life insurance, as well as your Ministers’ Pension contribution have been and will be your responsibility or the responsibility of your employer. With this letter, we pledge ourselves to interact with you at least on an annual basis, as recommended for other joint supervision ministers in the CRCNA.

We trust that you will want to be involved in the well-being of our congregation and therefore we plan to invite you to participate in events such as council retreats, visioning exercises, etc. We will invite you to lead our worship services at least once a year. We also encourage you to share with us your gifts in other areas, such as worship, pastoral care, teaching an adult class, and delegation to major assemblies. Perhaps you will be able to share with us some of your expertise in your research areas such as theology and culture, bridging gaps between the church and academy, and spiritual formation.

May Christ the King impress this official call upon your heart. And may the Lord assure you that in accepting this call to serve as a Minister of the Word as you perform your faculty calling you will honor His name, serve His church and bear witness to His coming Kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

The Council of the Covenant Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center, Iowa.

Done in Council this _____day of _____, 20____.
_____, Chair _____,