

MINUTES
of the 46th meeting of
CLASSIS CENTRAL U.S.

of the
UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA
convening 1 p.m. on January 21, AD 2019
at Wellsburg United Reformed Church, Wellsburg, Iowa

ARTICLE 1 – OPENING MATTERS

Rev. Joel Worries, Chairman *pro tem*, calls the meeting to order. He reads Ephesians 2:11-22 and leads in prayer, then calls for the singing of Psalter Hymnal 114, *Praise Waits for Thee in Zion*.

ARTICLE 2 – ROLL CALL

The Clerk calls the roll of delegates. The following delegates are present:

CHURCHES	MINISTER DELEGATES	ELDER DELEGATES
Beecher, IL – Faith United Reformed	Rev. Todd Joling	Elder Rick Knoll
De Motte, IN – Immanuel United Reformed		Elder Mark Van Der Molen Elder Dave Long
Des Moines, IA – Providence Reformed	Rev. Jody Lucero	Elder Timothy Ives
Doon, IA – Doon United Reformed	Rev. John Vermeer	Elder Scott Van Bommel
Dyer, IN – Redeemer United Reformed	Rev. Jacques Roets	Elder Ken Dykstra
Hills, MN – Hills United Reformed	Rev. Alan Camarigg	Bruce Van Dyken
Kansas City, MO – Covenant Reformed	Rev. Harold Miller	Elder Phil Veltkamp
Lansing, IL – Oak Glen United Reformed	Rev. Ed Marcusse	Elder Bob Vander Zee
Lynwood, IL – Lynwood United Reformed	Rev. Nick Alons	Elder Paul Dykstra
Oak Lawn, IL – First United Reformed of Oak Lawn	*	
Orange City, IA – Redeemer United Reformed	Rev. Todd De Rooy	Elder Nick Scholten
Pella, IA – Covenant Reformed	Rev. Doug Barnes	Elder Art Zylstra
Rock Valley, IA – Rock Valley United Reformed	Rev. Joel Vander Kooi	Elder Al Vande Kamp
Sanborn, IA – Cornerstone United Reformed	Rev. Dan Donovan	Elder Don Mastbergen
Schererville, IN – Community United Reformed	Rev. Jeff De Boer Rev. James Oord	
Sioux Center, IA – Sioux Center United Reformed	Rev. Jon Bushnell	Elder Kyle Van Wyhe
Sioux Falls, SD – Christ Reformed Church	Rev. Spencer Aalsburg	Elder Mark Hoogwerf
Waupun, WI – Grace United Reformed		Elder Larry Van Den Berg Elder John Karsten
Wellsburg, IA – United Reformed of Wellsburg	Rev. Joel Worries	Elder Spencer Slifer

* No delegates were able to be present from First United Reformed of Oak Lawn. See Article 16.

ARTICLE 3 – READING OF FORM OF SUBSCRIPTION

The Chairman *pro tem* asks the Clerk to read the *Form of Subscription* and asks the delegates to rise to indicate their agreement to it. All of the delegates stand, indicating their agreement.

ARTICLE 4 – SEATING OF OFFICERS

Classis is declared constituted. Rev. Jacques Roets, Chairman for the meeting, assumes the chair. Rev. Alan Camarigg serves as Vice-Chairman.

ARTICLE 5 – WELCOME TO GUESTS & VISITORS

- A. The Chairman welcomes guests and visitors including Rev. Roberto Rossi and Candidate Paul Freswick, as well as other guests.
- B. The Chairman expresses appreciation to the members of the URC of Wellsburg for their hospitality.

ARTICLE 6 – TIME SCHEDULE

A motion is made and supported to adopt the time schedule proposed on the agenda. This schedule calls for a fifteen-minute break at 3:15 p.m. and a one-hour break at 6 p.m. The evening session is to end at 9 p.m. If it is necessary to recovene on Tuesday, the starting time is 8:30 a.m., with a fifteen-minute break at 10 a.m. and a one-hour break at noon.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 7 – CREDENTIAL COMMITTEES APPOINTMENT

- A. The Chairman appoints Rev. Jody Lucero and Elder Don Mastbergen to examine delegates' credentials.
- B. The Chairman appoints Rev. Alan Camarigg and Elder Bob Vander Zee to examine the credentials of the examinees, Rev. Roberto Rossi and Candidate Paul Freswick.

ARTICLE 8 – INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Rev. Worries reports for the Interim Committee. This report is included in the agenda (page 6).
- B. A motion is made and supported to adopt the agenda with the proposed time schedule.

ADOPTED

- C. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Interim Committee.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 9 – STATED CLERK’S REPORT

- A. The Stated Clerk’s report is attached to the agenda.
- B. A motion is made and supported to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 10 – COLLOQUIUM DOCTUM FOR REV. ROBERTO ROSSI

- A. The Chairman explains the procedure for the examination of Rev. Roberto Rossi.
- B. Credentials
 - 1. Rev. Alan Camarigg reports that the credentials of Rev. Rossi are in order. They consist of two letters which were printed in the agenda.
 - 2. A motion is made and supported to proceed with the exam.

ADOPTED

- C. Sermon Evaluation
 - 1. The Chairman declares executive session in accord with the *Rules of Procedure* (I.F.).
 - 2. The report in the agenda (page 14) from the Consistory of the Immanuel URC in De Motte is considered to have been read.
 - 3. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
 - 4. A motion is made and supported to proceed with the exam.

ADOPTED

- 5. Executive session is ended.
- D. Practica
 - 1. Rev. John Vermeer examines Rev. Rossi in the area of Practica.
 - 2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
 - 3. A motion is and made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

- E. Church Polity
 - 1. Rev. Harold Miller examines Rev. Rossi in the area of Church Polity.
 - 2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.

3. A motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

F. Confessional Knowledge

1. Rev. Todd De Rooy examines Rev. Rossi in the area of Confessional Knowledge.
2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
3. A motion is and made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

G. Reformed Doctrine

1. Rev. Joel Vander Kooi examines Rev. Rossi in the area of Reformed Doctrine.
2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
3. A motion is and made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 11 – AFTERNOON BREAK

The Chairman declares the afternoon break at 3:25 p.m. Delegates and guests enjoy a brief time of fellowship and refreshment before being called back into session.

ARTICLE 12 – COLLOQUIUM DOCTUM FOR REV. ROBERTO ROSSI (*Continued from Article 10*)

A. Ethics

1. Rev. Spencer Aalsburg examines Rev. Rossi in the area of Ethics.
2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.

B. Discussion and Voting

1. The Chairman declares executive session.
2. A motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Rev. Roberto Rossi has sustained the Practica area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

3. A motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Rev. Roberto Rossi has sustained the Church Polity area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

4. A motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Rev. Roberto Rossi has sustained the Confessional Knowledge area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

5. The motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Rev. Roberto Rossi has sustained the Reformed Doctrine area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

6. The motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Rev. Roberto Rossi has sustained the Ethics area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

7. The ballots are collected and votes are tallied for all of the above motions. It is determined that Rev. Roberto Rossi has sustained all areas of the examination.

8. Classis declares Rev. Roberto Rossi eligible to be called as a Minister of the Word in the URCNA.

9. The Chairman declares executive session ended.

- C. The Chairman offers words of congratulations to Rev. Rossi and calls upon Rev. Joel Worries to offer prayer on behalf of Rev. Rossi's future ministry. Delegates and guests then come forward to congratulate Rev. Rossi and his wife, Carrie, and to wish them the Lord's blessing.

ARTICLE 13 – ORDINATION EXAMINATION OF MR. PAUL FRESWICK

- A. The Chairman explains the procedure for the ordination examination of Mr. Paul Freswick.

- B. Rev. Alan Camarigg reports for the Examinee Credentials Committee.

1. The committee reports that all the *Church Order* credential requirements (stipulated in Appendix 3, section 1) are in good order.
2. A motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

C. Sermon Evaluation

1. The Chairman declares executive session in accord with the *Rules of Procedure* (I.F.).
2. The report in the agenda (page 25) from the Consistory of Grace URC of Waupun is considered to have been read.
3. Opportunity is given for questions or comments from the floor.
4. Motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

5. Executive session is ended.

D. Practica

1. Rev. John Vermeer examines Mr. Freswick in the area of Practica.
2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
3. Motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

E. Church Polity

1. Rev. Harold Miller examines Mr. Freswick in the area of Church Polity.
1. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
2. Motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

F. Confessional Knowledge

1. Rev. Todd De Rooy examines Mr. Freswick in the area of Confessional Knowledge.
3. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
4. Motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

- G. Due to approaching winter weather, a motion is made and supported to extend the order of the day and proceed with the examination until it is complete.

ADOPTED

H. Reformed Doctrine

1. Rev. Joel Vander Kooi examines Mr. Freswick in the area of Reformed Doctrine.
2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.
3. Motion is made and supported to proceed with the examination.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 14 – EVENING BREAK

The Chairman announces a brief break at 6:20 p.m. to allow the delegates to stretch their legs before completing the examination.

ARTICLE 15 – ORDINATION EXAMINATION OF MR. PAUL FRESWICK (*Continued from Article 13*)

A. Ethics

1. Rev. Spencer Aalsburg examines Mr. Freswick in the area of Ethics.
2. Opportunity is given for questions from the floor.

B. Discussion and Voting

1. The Chairman declares executive session.
2. A motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Mr. Paul Freswick has sustained the Practica area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

3. A motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Mr. Paul Freswick has sustained the Church Polity area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

4. A motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Mr. Paul Freswick has sustained the Confessional Knowledge area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

5. The motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Mr. Paul Freswick has sustained the Reformed Doctrine area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

6. The motion is made and supported: We are satisfied that the Mr. Paul Freswick has sustained the Ethics area of the examination. Voting is by ballot.

ADOPTED

7. The ballots are collected and votes are tallied for all of the above motions. It is determined that Mr. Freswick has sustained all areas of the examination.

8. Classis declares Mr. Paul Freswick eligible to be ordained as a Minister of the Word in the URCNA.

9. The Chairman declares executive session ended.

C. The Chairman offers words of congratulations to Mr. Freswick and, as his advisor during seminary, offers prayer on behalf of Mr. Freswick's future ministry. Delegates and guests then come forward to congratulate Mr. Freswick and his wife, Victoria, and to wish them the Lord's blessing.

ARTICLE 16 – CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

A. Rev. Jody Lucero reports that the credentials are in good order with the following exception (file 46:2): First URC of Oak Lawn had no delegates present at Classis, due to work conflicts and illness.

B. No Consistory requested advice from the Classis.

C. A motion is made to approve the work of the Credentials Committee.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 17 – NEXT MEETING

A. The next meeting has been previously scheduled for Monday, April 8, and Tuesday, April 9 (with supper being served on Monday at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting to be convened at 6:30 p.m.). The Consistory at Wellsburg is the Convening Consistory.

B. A motion is made and supported to ask the Rock Valley URC to host the April meeting of classis.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 18 – CONCEPT MINUTES

The concept minutes are read. A motion is made and supported to approve concept minutes as read/amended.

ADOPTED

ARTICLE 19 – CLOSING MATTERS

A. The Chairman thanks the host church for their hospitality, expressing appreciation for the delegates and the other officers of classis.

B. The Chairman closes by reading from Galatians 1:10 and Philippians 2:5-11. He leads in prayer.

C. At 7:30 p.m., a motion is made and supported to adjourn.

ADOPTED

D. Classis is adjourned.

E. All rise to sing the *Doxology*.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Douglas Barnes
Alternate Stated Clerk

Notes:

1. The **agenda deadline** for the next meeting of classis is **February 11, 2019** (8 weeks prior to the classis). This is the date overtures and other agenda items need to be in the hands of the stated clerk,

so the agenda can be compiled and sent to the churches six weeks before classis. Any reports that are to be distributed with the agenda need to be submitted by this date as well.

2. Agenda materials may be sent to Rev. Ralph A. Pontier, by e-mail. Contact information is:
Cell: 641-230-3880 and ClassisCentralUS@gmail.com.