

Hopkins Community Church

Consistory Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jon

Roll Call

Present: Pastor Jon VanderWall, Pastor Caleb Nykamp, Pastor Jim Harrison, Dick Boverhof, Jim Fredricks, Kyle Hoffmaster, Danny Kisner, Curt Leep, Troy Clement, Dan Laarman, Mike Maule, Jason Reed, Tyler VanderSyde, Kathy Westendorp

Absent: Rich Huizinga

Guest: Ed Schmidt, Chair of the Task Force for Churches Leaving the RCA (SWMI Classis)

Devotions: Romans 12:1-8 (read by Kyle H and Pastor Jim followed by dwelling exercise with partners)

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda made by Kyle H; supported by Mike M; no discussion, all in favor.

Approval of January 2022 Minutes: Motion to accept minutes made by Dan L; supported by Tyler V; all in favor.

Meeting with Classis Committee for Denominational Transition

Ed Schmidt from Classis met with us and began by reminding us that Classis is here to help us, to assist us as we figure out how we are to navigate this process. He outlined the process that we will undertake to transition from the RCA and affiliate with ARC, and gave some specifics needed to have an orderly and proper transition. He asked to hear from anyone in the Consistory who wished to express and articulate why HCRC has a desire to leave the RCA and received input from many members. In summary, we acknowledge that HCRC would be more effective affiliating with another denomination given the level of stagnation in the RCA, including not taking a stand on the issue of homosexuality and questioning the authority of the Bible. There is a lack of trust with the RCA over these issues. We are acknowledging that we could be more effective as a church in another denomination.

Ed explained that a motion needs to be made in our meeting to withdraw from the RCA and transfer to ARC with HCRC's real and personal property. We need to do this by the Book of Church Order which requires a secret ballot. For a passing vote, 75% of the 11 Consistory members would need to vote "yes".

Motion made by Kyle Hoffmaster that HCRC withdraws its affiliation with the RCA and joins the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC) with HCRC's real and personal property. Motion supported by Jason Reed, and the floor was opened for discussion. Voting "yes" means you affirm the decision by HCRC to leave the RCA and affiliate with ARC. Voting "no" means you do not want HCRC to leave the RCA to affiliate with ARC.

Pastor Jon handed out slips of paper for the ballot voting process and ballots were handed in to Ed Schmidt for tallying. Results of the secret ballot vote:

- There were 10 total votes submitted by Consistory members (pastors are ineligible to vote).
- There were 10 "yes" votes. There were 0 "no" votes.
- The motion is **approved**.

The next step is to call a special Congregational Meeting to affirm the Consistory's decision from tonight. Absentee ballots will be permitted for those who cannot attend the meeting. We will need 75% of the active, confessing members of HCRC who attend the meeting to vote "yes" for the motion to be affirmed. Ed also gave us an outline of the various things that need to be handled which we've already begun with both the RCA and ARC in terms of paperwork and various processes. There was a time for questions and Ed was thanked by the Consistory for his time and attention to detail on our behalf.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Vision Update:

- Informer/Remind platforms are discontinued
- Reminder about the evangelism workshop on Saturday, March 26 from 9 AM-12 noon (middle school and older can attend)
- Vision Action Team has been meeting
- Ideas for community events are in the works
- Spring Parking Lot Sale (MP Room is gaining "stuff" and Allison Halsted is our "go to" person heading up this event)

Elders Report: Baptism for Keagan Bea VanderSyde will take place on Sunday, March 6

Finance Report: update on the Debt Elimination Fund and overview of January 2022 financial report from Kathy

Hospitality Team: they will have a committee meeting in the next few weeks

Worship Team: Potential upcoming transition in August as Faith will be making a college decision and consideration may need to be given for a different worship leader. We should pray into this time of decision-making.

Outreach: Mini-Golf recap (100+ people came out to play some golf, good success and community turn out!)

Youth Ministry:

- GEMS Sunday is March 20, 2022
- Profession of Faith class has 13 students signed up with 13 mentors
We would like to purchase a Bible for each of our POF students
- **March 20** will be the Sacraments workshop (hands on) and this will mark the half way point
- **April 24** the Elders will be present for the student capstone event: creed projects and hear testimony
- **May 8** we will celebrate Profession of Faith in the worship service

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Updates

- **Funeral Policy** – final draft has been written for HCRC to give to all funeral homes in the area as a guide for our building use, fee structure, etc.
Motion to accept the Funeral Policy was made by Jim F; supported by Troy C; no discussion, all in favor.
- **Extended Use of Facility** – final draft has been written and presented to the Consistory for scenarios of extended use of our building by groups or individuals.
Motion to accept the Extended Use of Facility Policy was made by Kyle H; supported by Dan L; no discussion, all in favor.
- **Conceal/Carry Statement** – this is brought up each year for review and to make sure we still affirm this statement. A time of questions and discussion took place.
Motion made to reaffirm the statement for the next **two years** was made by Tyler V; supported by Danny K; all in favor.

Denominational Transition

RCA Process:

- We are currently in the middle of the process.

ARC Transition:

- Our petition to join and affiliate with ARC is approved
- Pastor Jon will consult with Joel Baar (ARC) for our legal documents to make sure we have everything needed and that all is good
- The rest of the process hinges on the Congregational Meeting and results of the vote
- We need to schedule this meeting. Discussion took place on various dates, ultimately selecting Sunday, March 20, 2022 following the worship service. Kathy will provide return address labels, envelopes and stamps and the list of active, confessing members/partners to Pastor Jon. There will be a mailing to this week by several volunteers in Kathy's absence as she will be leaving on vacation.

NEW BUSINESS

Surplus Fund Allocation

The balance in our Surplus designated fund is \$42,688.23; discussion on potential use of these funds took place with the following suggestions offered:

1. Kevin Dewey has a list of potential projects, but he feels funds should go to debt reduction at this time
2. Jason V has a list of sound and tech upgrades for enhancing worship
3. Suggestion made to consider the possibility to help fund future mission trips or other youth trips down the road if we have surplus funds available
4. Apply surplus funds to our Debt Elimination Campaign

Motion made by Kyle H to recommend the following transfer of funds; supported by Tyler V; no discussion and all in favor.

- **Transfer \$ 2,688.23** to the vision implementation fund for 2022
- **Transfer \$40,000.00** to the Debt Fund and send that on as a payment for our building loan

Kitchen Management

- The Ladies for The Lord have voted to disband their group. We will be planning to have a celebration of their ministry and work sometime soon – they have been an instrumental and integral part of HCRC for so many years! They were asked to make a recommendation to the Consistory about use of their remaining account funds.
- A request was made by Dave Volkers to be considered for a “kitchen manager” volunteer position, should that be something HCRC feels is needed. Discussion about this took place, the vision for this role as well as some suggestions that we would likely want criteria, policies, guidelines etc. in place for this potential volunteer role.
- There will need to be some type of position of oversight with the church kitchen for luncheons, funerals, supplies that need to be purchased, etc. The LFTL have overseen the church kitchen and all these things for many years.

Rethinking Church

- Moving from RCA to ARC puts us in a unique time of discernment regarding our bylaws, what Consistory is or must be, etc. We’ve used these definitions because it has been dictated to us by the RCA in the past. We can re-imagine this for HCRC by having some future conversations about this. Is this all Biblical (the role of the Consistory, for example)? Instead of just copy/pasting to come up with new bylaws we should really use this time to discern what it means to be an Elder, Deacon, etc.
- Elders and Deacons should review the agenda outline from this meeting to see all the areas we could or need to consider. Please read over our current bylaws, read Scripture, and discern so that we can begin to have conversations around this going forward.

Moving forward, what metrics will we use:

- What does this mean for HCC?
- What/How do we measure the fruit of our ministry?
- Discipleship Reproduction Rate (conversation with Tim Vink – number of new believers per 100 members)

RCA Constitutional Inquiry Form 2021

- We read through the questions together; all answers were a “yes”. Time was given for discussion if needed.
- Document has been turned in, submitted by Pastor Jon and signed by Kyle H.

Round table opportunity was given. Jim F mentioned that he will have Kevin Dewey obtain a fire extinguisher for the youth barn.

Motion to Adjourn: Kyle H; supported by Troy C; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 PM

Next Meeting: March 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer: Pastor Caleb

Minutes submitted by Kathy Westendorp