Michigan Church Hosts International Art Competition

Monroe Community Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., displayed the work of 17 artists during the second annual ArtPrize competition in that city—an event that showcased the work of 1,700 artists from around the world.

Steve Fridsma, chair of the church’s ArtPrize committee, said this was Monroe Community’s second year as one of the 200 venues.

The church did some fundraising by opening its doors early for a “sneak peek” at the artwork and auctioning off donated art.

Rachel Hyde, whose art was hosted at the church, created “Impressions of Joy” in pen and ink. Although not all of the artists at Monroe were Christians, much of the art was based on the artists’ Christian beliefs. “My piece is about Philippians. There’s no avoiding that I’m a Christian,” said Hyde, who is also a member of the church.

Ministry associate Amy Schenkkel explained, “[ArtPrize] is a natural fit for us. We value art. We value community. We value what Grand Rapids is about.”

Worship planners also developed a four-week sermon series on the art in the church.

Other CRC artists who showed their work at ArtPrize included Wietze Adema, Danielle Dix, Steven Huyser-Honig, Robin Jensen, Kirk Lepine, Julie Quinn, Jason Reiffer, Carol Roeda, Flint Sackett, and Bill Vriesema, all from West Michigan. —Ryan Struyk

Highlights from Classis Meetings

Two or three times each year, Christian Reformed churches send representatives to meetings of their classis, a regional grouping of churches. Delegates to classis review and make decisions about their shared ministries and practice mutual accountability for their congregations’ individual ministries. Here are highlights from the most recent classis meetings:

Several people were welcomed into ministry in the Christian Reformed Church, including seminary graduates Michael Bentley, Matthew Borst, Christopher de Winter, Anthony DeKorte, Scott Elgersma, Chris Fulkerson, Aaron Greydanus, John Kim, Nathan DeJong McCarron, Samantha DeJong McCarron, Matthew McClure, Summer Mohrlang, Kristin Palacios, Daniel Rhee, and Hernan Zapata.

Transferred in from other denominations were Revs. David Cheung, Kyung Hyun Cho, Maged Fayez Dakdouk, Jonathan Gerstner, SeJong Jang, Inhwan Kim, Dae Won Shinj, and Fernando Valencia.

Revs. David Sung and Daniel Rhee were loaned to non-CRC churches.

Revs. George Cooper, Layne Kilbreath, John Kuperus, Paul Park, Ron Smeding, and Jeff Vanderhoof were released from their congregations.

Joseph Chen, Wayne Knight, Steve Rhoda, and Gary Roosma were released from CRC ministry.

Classis Grandville and Classis Huron declined requests to exclude women from roles at classis. Classis Minnkota will financially support two churches each year to provide internships for theologically conservative seminarians (defined as those who believe the Bible does not allow women to serve as elders or ministers).

New ministries were started or approved in Watertown, S. Dak.; Jenison, Mich.; University of British Columbia Okanagan; and at the Newton (Iowa) Correctional Facility. Tokamasa Mission Church of Los Angeles joined the denomination, along with its pastors.

Living Stone CRC in Rochester, Minn.; All Nations Fellowship CRC in Blacksburg, Va.; Oxnard (Calif.) Korean CRC; and Crossroads CRC of Pequot, Minn. were closed.

Classis Hamilton held a panel discussion on youth ministry and Classis Chatham approved hiring a youth ministry consultant subject to ratification. Classis Red Mesa disbanded its youth committee.

Classes Wisconsin, Minnkota, and Huron held discussions on Safe Church matters. Classis Greater L.A. formed a race relations team. Classis Alberta North approved a classis restorative justice committee.

Classis British Columbia North-West requested that Synod 2011 declare the Contemporary Testimony a confession (official doctrine). Classis Heartland requested that synod instruct the denomination’s ecumenical and interfaith relations committee, among others, to foster a more balanced denomination-wide discussion of the Belhar Confession.

Classis Grand Rapids East will send its overture requesting a study to review the biblical teachings regarding homosexual practice and orientation to Synod 2011 since it was too late for Synod 2010.

Much more classis news is available at www.thebanner.org.

—Banner news correspondents