

Classis Watch: Spring 2019

Two or three times each year, Christian Reformed churches send representatives to their classis, a regional group of churches. Many of the actions taken by classes are governed by the CRC's Church Order, the rules that govern denominational life. Here are some of the actions by classes in the past few months.

Those **welcomed into ministry in the Christian Reformed Church** include seminary graduates Beverly Weeks, Nicole Veenkamp, and Paul Minbo Shim (Church Order Articles 6 and 10).

Those **welcomed into ministry in the CRC from other denominations**, following a satisfactory colloquium doctum (doctrinal conversation) establishing soundness of doctrine, sanctity of life, and knowledge and appreciation of Christian Reformed practice, include John-Peter Mukendi and Daniel Choi (Church Order Art. 8, p. 23).

Rev. Daniel Rhee was declared **eligible for call**.

Ministers loaned: Daniel Jin Su Hwang to Korean Christian Church; Tony Meyer to International Church, Madrid, Spain (Church Order Art. 13b).

Ministers released from a congregation: Rev. Robert Know, from Hope Fellowship CRC (Denver, Colo.); Rev. Nick Hopkins, from Shawnee Park CRC, (Grand Rapids, Mich.) (Church Order Art. 17a).

Leaving ministry in the CRC

Churches and classes make a declaration reflecting a resigned minister's status that is appropriate to the way and spirit in which the minister acted during the time leading up to and including resignation from office. Those designations are as follows: honorably released, released, dismissed, or in the status of one deposed (Church Order Art. 14).

Revs. John Burden and Gregory Cumberland were **honorably released**.

Steve Wolma was **released**.

New Ministries and Ministry Changes

An emerging (unorganized) church does not have its own council and is under the care of a council of a neighboring CRC. An organized church has its own council (Church Order Art. 38).

Churches declared emerging: Mision de Fe McAllen (McAllen, Tex.)

—Gayla R. Postma

IN MEMORIAM



Rev. Barry B. Blankers

1936-2019

A pastor for 58 years, Barry Blankers was gentle, humble, godly, wise, and a genuine role model who tried to live what he preached. Described by some as a "silent undertow," he was a quiet, continuous force influencing people as he visited, baptized, married, counseled, and preached the word of God. Blankers died April 2 at age 82.

Following graduation from Calvin College and Seminary and ordination in 1961, Blankers pastored Cedar (Iowa) CRC. He then served for 11 years as a missionary and church planter in the Philippines with what was then called Christian Reformed World Missions. After returning to the U.S., he pastored the following congregations: Calvin CRC, Wyckoff, N.J.; First CRC, Ripon, Calif.; and Ochededan (Iowa) CRC. Although officially listed as having retired in 2001, he never did retire, continuing to minister for another 17 years at First CRC, Lynden, Wash., until the time of his death.

He had an adventuresome spirit and enjoyed travel, including cross-country drives, trips to Costa Rica, and biking in Europe.

Blankers is survived by Clarice, his wife of 60 years, their four sons and spouses, and 11 grandchildren.

—Janet A. Greidanus

IN MEMORIAM



Markus Johannes Lise

1942-2019

"You are loved" was the message that echoed throughout Markus Lise's life of ministry. He is remembered as a pastor who challenged and inspired his congregations to think "outside the box." He shared his passion about nature with others through hobbies such as astronomy, birdwatching, cycling, cross-country skiing, and walking. Love for God and creation often gave rise to his singing wholeheartedly around the dinner table, in the car, and on his sailboat. Lise died peacefully March 26.

After graduating from Calvin College and Seminary and ordination in 1970, Lise pastored the following Christian Reformed churches: Burdett, Alta.; Holland Marsh, Newmarket, Ont.; Hope Community, Mount Brydges, Ont. He then served for 20 years as chaplain at Whitby (Ont.) Mental Health Centre.

Two years after retirement in 2007, Lise cycled 7,000 km (about 4,350 miles) across North America with Sea to Sea, raising money to help eradicate poverty. He continued to engage with his local community, writing a column for the Orono Weekly Times and was a member of the Durham Region Field Naturalist Society.

Lise is survived by Jeanne, his wife for almost 55 years, five children and their spouses, 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

—Janet A. Greidanus