

A Letter From the Dean

Dear Members and Friends,

I just came up with a splendidly eye-catching name for our next event.

“Pastors are from Mars, Musicians are from Venus?”

What do you think? Maybe I should have gone into marketing, is what I’m thinking! (Of course, the money would have been waaaay better there, but perhaps the sense of personal fulfillment less...)

At any rate! - This title is for our next AGO event on Tuesday night. Your board has decided to begin the gathering informally at 7pm with some snacks, with the official event starting at 7:30, so if you’d like to talk with friends and colleagues, but hate staying late once the meeting is over, this will be perfect!

You are welcome to join the Holland Area American Guild of Organists chapter for their second annual forum on Musician-Clergy relations this coming Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30pm at Hope Church. Pastor Gordon Wiersma and Music Director Brian Carder have worked together for decades. Come hear how and why they continue to smile in each other’s presence and create meaningful worship experiences together, along with others of the pastoral and music staff at Hope.

Have questions about how Brian and Gordon plan worship? Bring them!

Feel discouraged that you’ll never find a musician/ clergy partner that you work well with? Come and see that there is hope!

Curious how others do what you do on a weekly basis? This is for you!

Want to chat with other musicians and clergy beforehand? Come at 7pm for snacks!

Member’s Recital

I’m also looking forward to our member’s recital in May – please let Gordon or me know if you’d like to play. And could you also publicize this with your congregation? Gordon will be providing a poster to hang up in your church, in a few weeks. This will be taking place Sunday, May 19 at 5pm at Second Reformed Church in Zeeland, on their newly refurbished instrument, which sounds wonderful in the also newly renovated space!

New Member Intro

As many of you know, Sander Owens is a new member of our chapter. He played for the Ray Haan program, and will be playing at our Member’s Recital. I asked Sander to tell us a little bit about himself.

My name is Sander Owens, and I am a sophomore at Holland Christian High School. I have been studying the piano for nine or ten years now, but had always wanted to play the organ—ever since I had seen the Count segment on *Sesame Street*. That dream was realized four years ago when I began taking organ lessons. I attended two POEs my first two summers, and I hope to attend Lutheran Summer Music Academy this summer. I currently am also taking composition lessons with Dr. Ben Krause at Hope College. I also occasionally play at my home church, First Reformed in Holland. Thank you for sponsoring me!

April Meeting Write-Up

I also asked new member Karen Howell to write up her impressions of our fascinating last meeting at Central Ave CRC on Sacred Dance. Thanks to Karen for taking the time to share these thoughts.

Several AGO members and friends met on March 25 at Fourteenth St CRC to hear Professor Linda Graham of the Hope College Dance Department talk about liturgical or sacred dance. This delightful presentation gave the history of sacred dance dating back to Biblical times and mentioned people who were instrumental in the beginning of what is now considered this modern dance form. Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn were the first to introduce dance in churches as a form of enhancing the liturgy.

The history and struggle to create the dance department at Hope College was also mentioned. Dance was viewed as being sinful by many people in Holland and was definitely frowned upon. Linda named three categories of dance: Sacred, community or for display, as in a stage production. Dance is always about personal expression.

Linda has choreographed and performed dances in many churches in the area. She made suggestions about how to incorporate dance into the worship experience at our churches. Linda talked about how we need to consider the size and condition of the area provided for dancers. Small areas at the front of the church, carpeted floors and stairs and placement of furniture i.e. pulpits and communion tables are a concern. Also dancers need to have music for rehearsals that is the same as what will be provided for the performance with the same dynamics, tempo and phrasing. Live music can be difficult for the dancer because of the changes that can happen each time it is performed. The dancer relies on knowing that the music at each rehearsal and each performance will be the same.

There is a student liturgical dance group at Hope for which no auditions are required. They work with the chapel at Hope. They are available to churches in the area.

It was a very informative evening enjoyed by all who attended. Several of us discussed the possibility of providing dance in their services.

Peace, Karen Howells

End-of-Year Potluck

Elizabeth West has offered to host our year-end potluck in June sometime – stay tuned for a date coming soon for that fun event.

Regional AGO Convention

Also, don't forget the Regional AGO Convention, coming up June 30 – July 3 in Grand Rapids (with a Holland day on July 2). Many of your favorite regional artists will be playing, along with some big names from the national scene, and all your favorite area organs will be showcased! Hope to see you there. <https://grago2019.org/>

Organ Music available for donation

I will have the music mentioned in the last newsletter at our meeting Tuesday night. Please check them out and consider if you'd like to buy any for yourselves, a student, or a colleague. All proceeds will benefit your Holland AGO chapter!

I hope to see you Tuesday night, for our next meeting. Consider inviting your clergy-person to attend with you. And looking forward to our Member's Recital in May. We will be inducting new folks into our League of Distinguished Service at that event as well. And Gordon has promised a delicious reception afterwards.

Best wishes, and happy Tulip Time!
Rhonda

Chapter programs for 2018-19

April 30 – 7:30 p.m. Hope Church – Musician-Clergy Relations, with Brian Carder and the Pastors at Hope Church – the second in our series, after last year's very successful event at Grace Episcopal.

May 19 – 5 p.m. – Second Reformed Church of Zeeland – Members Recital (on the newly installed organ!). Start thinking about what you'd like to play.

June – End of year Potluck at Elizabeth West's house. Time TBD.

Other local programs of interest

May 5 – Hope Church, 7pm - Rhonda Sider Edgington - Tulip Time Organ Recital - "Playing it Cool at the Oude Kerk" : Music of the Netherlands. Tickets \$15, at the door, or from the Tulip Time website.

May 8 -11 – Annual Tulip Time recitals at Hope College's Dimnent Memorial Chapel. Eight 20-minute recitals each day on the hour and half-hour beginning at 10am.

Chapter Officers for 2018-2019

Dean - Rhonda Edgington
Sub-Dean – Linda Fulton
Board Members – Roberta Kraft, Rick Van Oss

Ex Official:
Treasurer - Gordon Bruns
Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – hollandareaago.org

2018-2019 Calendar		
Tue April 30, 7:30 p.m.	Musician-Clergy Relations – Brian Carder and Hope Church Pastors	Hope Church, Holland
Sun May 19, 5:00 p.m.	Annual Member's Recital	Second Reformed Church, Zeeland
Jun TBA	Annual Picnic	Elizabeth West's house
Jun 30-Jul 3	AGO Great Lakes Regional Convention	Grand Rapids & Holland