

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of October 12, 2017, 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

Georgetown CRC, 6475 40th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

10-1: Dave Jolman shared a photograph of a bonfire and asked for the group's initial thoughts. We read the thought-provoking poem, *Fire* by Judy Brown. This led to sharing the importance of creating sufficient spaces in our lives for personal growth, contemplation, etc. Perhaps it is important to remove some logs so that our fire can burn stronger. Dave highlighted Luke 5:15 where we read that ***Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*** Dave opened with prayer.

10-2: Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Marc Nelesen, Rev. Josh VanDrunen

STAFF: Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer/Web keeper), Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator),
Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer)

ABW: Rev. Gerry Koning

10-3: **MSC** to accept, as written, the Vision Team minutes of September 14, 2017.

10-4: Financial Report from Mel:

- A. Mel offered a brief financial report stating that finances are where they should be and things are moving along nicely for the remainder of the 2017 fiscal year.
- B. Mel will present the 2018 budget at the Classis Meeting.
 - The budget is based on 5,000 giving members in our Classis. We ask churches to contribute \$30/member. Should we inquire of other Classes how they put together their budgets? There are about 4,000 members so the amount given should be \$35/member.
 - As we go forward into a new fiscal year, we question that maybe we should rethink how we put together our budget and the reasons behind why we do what we do with the monies raised through Ministry Shares. Does our budget show what we value as a Classis?
 - We want to be transparent with our churches about this struggle.

10-5: Stated Clerk's Report:

- A. Questions arise about the reasons behind going to Homefront Church for our Classis Meeting. Glenda will connect with Dave DenHaan and write an explanatory email when sending out the final meeting agenda.
- B. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

10-6: Classis Meeting

- A. Chairperson:
 - Gerry Koning has agreed to chair the meeting; Josh VanDrunen will serve as Vice-Chair.
 - Jim Roskam will have an exit interview with Len Kuyvenhoven who does not wish to continue as Chairperson.
 - Jim will talk to pastors about their willingness to serve as Chairperson of future meetings.
- B. Dinnertime discussions:
 - Dave DenHaan will facilitate church growth discussion; Dave Jolman will facilitate value steward discussion. Value stewards must send Dave J. two or three bullet points summarizing their value.
 - Dave and Dave will connect prior to the meeting to plan the best way to lead the discussion(s).

10-7: Habitat for Humanity update

- A. Biggest need continues to be finding a lot to build on.
- B. A combined Classis worship service is planned for October 15 at Cottonwood Church.
- C. Jim continues to connect with church representatives and will talk specifically to churches who have not given financially.
- D. Twenty copies of *Theology of a Hammer* are available for those who want to read it.

10-8: Future Classis meetings

Mark B. is contacting Rev. John Witvliet, Jr. about a possible speaker for our May meeting.

10-10: Counselor for Immanuel CRC

Marc Nelesen has been asked to be the counselor at Immanuel CRC in their upcoming vacancy. He has agreed and this is pending per Immanuel's council approval.

10-11: Regional Pastor Replacement

The VT continues to see the benefits of having strong regional co-pastors to provide support in our classis. Marc Nelesen will continue as a regional pastor and there needs to be a successor for Bob Huisman. Marc and Bob will come with names for Bob's successor and will recommend said person to Pastor-Church Resources.

10-12: Clergy Mental Health

We have a solvent program at Pine Rest available for pastors and their families and church staff. This program will be highlighted in the VT report to Classis.

10-13: News on classis churches and other classis information

- A. Rev. Sam Krikke and family have moved to Hudsonville. He will be introduced and welcomed at our October meeting.
- B. Georgetown CRC is in the midst of a "Helping Houston" campaign. A truck is being filled with new items and will head to Houston on October 16.
- C. Rev. Dan Gritter (Jamestown CRC) will be retiring in the early Spring.
- D. Roger Slagter, a frequent elder delegate to Classis, passed away in September. Roger was our representative on the Disability Concerns Committee and we will acknowledge his passing at our October meeting.
- E. Churches in the Classis have begun conversations; re: evening service.

10-14: Kathy Jelsema closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk
Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES:

- **Classis Georgetown Meeting on Thursday, October 26; location: TBD**
- **Thursday, November 9, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC, Mark B., opening; Jim, closing**
- **Thursday, December 14, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC, Gerry, opening; Josh, closing**