

**CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM**  
**Minutes of February 8, 2018 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM**

*Transforming Lives and Communities*

**Georgetown CRC, 6475 ~ 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426**

**1-1:** Dave Johlman opened with devotions based on Proverbs 11:25 with reflections from author Stephen King. Dave concluded that God blesses generous people. So what are we giving? What are we putting out? Trust that God will bless what we give. Dave then opened with prayer.

**1-2:** Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

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

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

**OTHER:** Ms. Susan LaClear (potential member to serve as Risky Compassion Steward)

**1-3: Additional Agenda items:**

- A. Overture from Cottonwood Church (see Article 1-9)
- B. Josh VanDrunen asked for a discussion about mechanisms for conversations – this will be a future agenda item

**1-4: January Vision Team Meeting Minutes**

MSC to accept, as written, the Vision Team minutes of January 11, 2018.

**1-5: Financial Report from Mel:**

Mel VanderBie offered a financial report for this year to date. Finances are in good shape as we begin a new calendar year. Habitat funds still need to be sent out. Mel added a line to the budget report to reflect monies paid for the Birkman assessments.

**1-6: Stated Clerk's Report:**

- A. Three discussion items:
    - 1. April 12 and May 10 were accepted as next VT meeting dates.
    - 2. Faith Formation Update – Glenda Tebben has continued to be in contact with Syd Hielema about Fig VanderMolen being the Youth Ministry advocate assigned on Classis' behalf. There is some frustration on our VT team with this process and with how the denomination assigns people to Classis positions without Classis input. See also Safe Church Coordinator position. Glenda will invite Dee Recker to a future VT meeting to explain why and how this is done.
    - 3. Safe Church Ministries Update – Glenda and Marc Nelesen met with Eileen Zwart about her Safe Church Coordinator role but they have no recommendation yet as to how to proceed with her in this role in the future. As to next steps? For now, Glenda will simply highlight Eileen's role to our classis in her Stated Clerk's report to Classis.
- The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

**1-7: Regional Pastors report**

Marc Nelesen reported that he will proceed to have a discussion with Classis pastors around their experience with the Birkman Assessment.

**1-8: February 15 Classis Meeting**

Last minute details:

- A. Marc Nelesen will say a few words regarding Dave Den Haan's departure.

- B. Dave Jolman and Hank Bosma will speak to Dan Gritter on his retirement
- C. Dan Gritter will speak briefly on City Fest but will not show a video clip
- D. Elder and deacon delegates are still needed for Synod  
**The following motion was made, seconded and passed: Offer to pay the Elder and Deacon delegates to Synod (those currently installed and not on church staff) an honorarium of \$600 to go to Synod because we recognize the value of their service to the denomination.**
- E. Marc will present the Classis as Classroom proposal and talk about Birkman lunches
- F. Gerry will write and Jim will present VT Report, including introducing Dave Jolman as new Regional Pastor and Susan LaClear as new Risky Compassion Steward
- G. Welcome of Kerri Rodgers as guest at Classis

**1-9: Overture to Synod from Cottonwood Church**

**Protect the ability of members in good standing to participate freely in denominational activities that are generally open to all members, particularly online activities**

Two questions need to be answered:

- 1) What is the background for this overture?
- 2) What efforts have been made to pursue the denomination about this?

VT recommends that we take this up at the May Classis meeting after we have more information about it. Approved.

**1-10: Vision Team Replacement for Gerry Koning**

Gerry Koning met with Susan LaClear and she had agreed to take over his position as Risky Compassion Value Steward.

**1-11: Classis as Classroom**

Marc Nelesen presented the current revision of the proposal. This will be presented as an adaptable template, as an example of a kind of learning plan for someone wanting to become a Commissioned Pastor in Classis Georgetown. With one recommended modification, this proposal will be sent out by Glenda with the rest of the Classis meeting packet.

**1-12: May 17 Classis update:**

Mark Bennink contacted Joyce Borger about our concern that we need to have ALL Classis delegates be able to tie in to her presentation. Joyce is on board with our basic concerns.

**1-13: Updates from/about Counselors, Habitat for Humanity, Clergy mental health**

- A. Gerry Koning to be Fairway Counselor
- B. Immanuel is not ready for a Counselor yet
- C. Jim Roskam reported that land has been chosen at 48<sup>th</sup> and Balwin and that monies are still coming in
- D. Marc Nelesen reported on 2017 utilizations of the program. There were six, but this seems very low

**1-14: News on classis churches and other classis information**

- A. Some items for prayer were offered
- B. Josh Benton looking at being reassessed, applied to do CPE
- C. Thanks to Gerry Koning for all his years of service to Classis teams
- D. Marc Nelesen is willing to serve as the Region 10 Rep to the Calvin Seminary Board

**1-15: Kathy Jelsema closed our meeting with prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Jelsema*

Assistant Treasurer, Classis Georgetown

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES**

- Thursday, March 8, 2018, Georgetown CRC, **Marc, opening; Glenda, closing**
- **Classis meets on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at Georgetown CRC**