

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of March 16, 2017, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

Georgetown CRC, 6475 - 40th Ave., Hudsonville, MI 49426

- 1-1:** Marc Nelesen shared a devotion he wrote entitled *Inside Out*. Using two stories in Matthew 15 Marc explained how *outsiders instruct insiders* and show them things they'd never seen or thought of before. The devotion challenged us, as a Vision Team, to be aware of our self-imposed limits and open our eyes to see how wide God's imagination really is.
- 1-2:** Vision Team (VT):
Roll Call, PRESENT:
MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Gerry Koning, Rev. Larry Doornbos, Rev. Marc Nelesen
STAFF: Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer/Web keeper), Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer), Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk)
- 1-3: Agenda additions:**
Financial Shalom (1-18)
- 1-4:** The Vision Team minutes of February 2, 2017 (written by Kathy) were accepted as written.
- 1-5: Financial Report from Mel:**
Mel offered a brief financial report stating that the financial situation is stable at this time. As it's the beginning of the year, funds will be coming back up as ministry shares are received.
- 1-6: Stated Clerk's Report:**
A. Request from Steve Dykstra on behalf of his son, Barry, who works for Youth for Christ re: financial support. Glenda will contact Barry and advise him to complete a grant request.
B. Request from Fig VanderMolen, youth pastor at Messiah CRC, to represent Classis Georgetown at the Faith Formation Gathering in Chicago this April. Conference cost is \$230. Motion was MSC to pay up to 50% of the cost of the conference. Glenda will contact Fig to relay this information and will ask him to write a short report on the conference to be presented to the Vision Team.
The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.
- 1-7: February 9 Classis meeting updates:**
Retirement recognition and a time of thanks for Duane and Dee will take place at the May Classis meeting. Glenda will connect with Dee; Mel will contact Duane.
- 1-8: Report on Friendship Chapel - Article 17 and Request for Monetary assistance**
A. Marc N. reports that Article 17 documents are completed and have been signed. Synodical deputies have been notified and will be at the May 18 classis meeting. Bob Huisman meets with Josh Benton to provide individual care.
B. Larry reports that Friendship Chapel is short \$20,000 to cover expenses between now and June. Motion is MSC for Classis Georgetown to loan \$20,000 to Friendship Chapel. This money will be paid back after the sale of the property. Jim and Mel will prepare and present loan documents to Friendship.
- 1-9: Biblical Diversity Seminar March 24-25:**
Gerry reported that registrations are slow coming in but hopes for a good turnout. The seminar is being videotaped.

- 1-10: Clergy Mental Health:**
Marc reports that there is nothing new to present but it good to have monthly communication with the Vision Team.
- 1-11: Assistant Clerk position:**
After some discussion it is decided that an Assistant Clerk is not needed. Staff and Vision Team members agree to assist the Stated Clerk when and if needed.
- 1-12: Habitat for Humanity:**
Jim has been in contact with the churches. He has eight contact names (out of 18 churches). He is planning a meeting in April for the contact persons. Total cost will be approximately \$130,000-\$140,000. If churches have offerings for the project monies should be sent to Mel and allocated "Habitat for Humanity project".
- 1-13: Counselor for Searchlight:**
Stan Drenth will be retiring in June and Searchlight requests a counselor during their vacancy. Motion is MSC to have Gerry Koning serve as counselor at Searchlight.
- 1-14: Combining May and June classis meeting**
This came as a request (via Classical credentials) from Zutphen CRC. While we understand the reasoning behind this request, we agree it is not a good idea to combine the two. The agendas for each are very different. The May meeting includes an Article 17 (Josh Benton/Friendship Chapel) and a presentation from Laura Keeley on Faith Formation. The June meeting is an examination of Mr. Cody Zuiderveen after he is declared a candidate for ministry. Jim will contact Zutphen CRC and relay our decision.
- 1-15: Candidacy Committee and Student Fund Committee:**
The two committees should be merged but there is continued discussion on how they fit together. The Candidacy program is 24 months long and diligent oversight is needed for the candidates. Marc N. will email Dave DenHaan to have further discussion and ask his thoughts.
- 1-16: Delegates to Synod:**
- A. Rev. Josh VanDrunen and Rev. Dave Jolman are the minister delegates; Rev. Matt Paslrok is the alternate.
 - B. Mrs. Carol Woltjer (Ridgewood CRC) is the elder delegate; Mr. Dirk VanderSteen (Fairway CRC) is the alternate.
 - C. We have no deacon delegates. Glenda will send an email to the pastors/churches asking for volunteers.
- 1-17: Moving September Classis meeting to October:**
At the Classis Meeting in May, we will "poll" the delegates to see if there is an overwhelming response (yes or no) to moving the meeting to October.
- 1-18: Financial Shalom:**
A grant from the Lily Foundation allows pastors to ask for financial assistance in a number of areas. The information flyer will be made available on the website.
- 1-19: News of our churches in Classis:**
- A. Dave Jolman asked for stats of churches. Larry directed him to Atlantic Monthly (Breaking Faith article). Mark B. emailed stats sent from CRCNA.
 - B. We give thanks for the oversight team surrounding Josh Benton as he tries to determine his next steps in ministry.
 - C. The elders of Trinity CRC spent an evening with Norm Thomasma learning about individual styles.
- 1-20:** Mark Bennink closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk
Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES:

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 12:30 PM, Trinity CRC, Larry, opening, Dave, closing

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC, Mark B., opening, Gerry, closing