

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

Transforming Lives and Communities

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

3-1: Marc Nelesen shared the poem "Pry Me Off Dead Center" by Ted Loder. We read the poem together as our opening prayer.

3-2: Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Susan LaClear, 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)

3-3: February Vision Team Meeting Minutes

Thanks to Kathy Jelsema for recording the minutes of February 8, 2018. Minutes are accepted as written.

3-4: Update on classical structure within denomination

Glenda reported on her conversation with Dee Recker in regard to our questions about denomination and classis protocol in finding classical representatives for various agencies and ministries. Dee will refer our questions to Colin Watson, director of Ministries and Administration.

3-5 Financial Report from Mel:

- A. Finances are in good shape as we are into the third month of our calendar year. Monies are coming in from churches. Grants have been paid for this quarter and thank-you notes received.
- B. Mel distributed a report of church offering donations for the Habitat project.

3-6: Stated Clerk's Report:

- A. Glenda gave a brief report on the Leadership Conference on February 8.
- B. Grant letters generally go out in March. Before this is done this year, we will do some background work to answer questions:
 - 1. Why do we support the specific ministries/agencies we do?
 - 2. Do we want to continue to give grants?
 - 3. Could we work together as churches and get behind a ministry together?Jim and Josh will meet and look at the grant process, trying to formulate ideas for how we, as a Classis, can come alongside churches in ministry.
- C. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

3-7: Regional Pastors report

A lunch for all pastor who took the Birkman Method Assessment will be held in April. Fifteen pastors took the assessment and fourteen will attend the lunch.

3-8: February 15 Classis Meeting Recap

- A. Evaluations received were overwhelmingly positive. Thanks to Josh for his capable leadership as chair.
- B. Overture from Cottonwood Church: Glenda communicated with Rev. Matt Palsrok after the meeting, but we haven't heard of any additional follow-up required on our end.

3-9: Vision Team Report at Classis

Thank you to Jim who will write our report and present it at the Classis Meetings.

3-10: May Classis Meeting - Empowering Worship

- A. Mark Bennink has been in contact with Joyce Borger, director of Worship in the CRCNA. Joyce has given Mark her ideas of what she will present, understanding her audience. The presentation will be interactive. The length of the presentation is to be determined.
- B. Discussion is given to whether we should invite worship coordinators, worship leaders and worship teams to the presentation. If so, a meeting timeline should be decided on soon.

3-11: Conversation and Connection around our Churches

- A. How do we collaboratively work together as churches (beyond the Habitat project)? An idea is to invite churches to share their ideas for what they'd like to talk about on their credential form and/or via emails.
- B. Marc Nelesen shared CRASE training, offered by the Ottawa County Sherriff Department, highlighting church safety.
 - 1. This could be one way that allows us to work collaboratively as a classis.
 - 2. If we frame church safety as a worship question, could we inviting the CRASE trainers to come to our May 17 meeting and present this alongside the worship presentation? Mark Bennink will present the idea to Joyce Borger.

3-12: Classis Updates

- A. Church Counselors: Rev. Gerry Koning is the counselor for Fairway; Rev. Marc Nelesen will be the counselor for Jamestown. Immanuel CRC still does not have a counselor.
- B. Habitat for Humanity: Property has been purchased on 48th Avenue and Baldwin in Hudsonville. A sign will go on the property. Jim will talk to Habitat, requesting specific wording on the sign:
- C. Clergy Mental Health: The program is being used by church pastors, families, and staff.
- D. Classis as a Classroom: Marc N. continues to work on this.

3-13: News on classis churches and classis information

- A. Poverty Cure: Susan shared this great opportunity for church leaders. It is hosted by FairHaven Ministries the last Wednesday of each month and is a great way to learn how to be productive when helping in poverty.
- B. Feeding America's Children: Josh shared how his church partners with other area churches in this ministry.
- C. 12th Avenue: On behalf of his church's leadership, Mark Bennink requests prayers for 12th Avenue and also asks for Classis' assistance as they set long-term goals.

3-14: Glenda Tebben closed our meeting with prayer.

3-15: In Executive Session, after the staff were dismissed:

The following motion was made, seconded and passed:
Offer to pay the Elder and Deacon delegates to Synod (*ordinarily* those currently installed and *not full-time, paid church staff*) an honorarium of \$600 to go to Synod because we recognize the value of their service to the denomination *and wish to find some way in which to compensate them for lost wages or vacation time.*"

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES

- Thursday, April 12, Georgetown CRC, **Mark B., opening; Susan closing**
- Thursday, May 10, Georgetown CRC, **Josh, opening; Jim, closing**
- **Classis meets on Thursday, May 17, 2018.**