

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of September 14, 2017, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Transforming Lives and Communities

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

9-1: Marc N. read 2 Timothy:5-7, bringing to light Paul's emphasis on ethics and rules. He tied this to the ethos we try to advance in classis; to grow a good culture and discover a new ethic. Marc encourages the VT not to violate the spirit of ethics as we experience wonderful and perhaps difficult encounters in Classis Georgetown. Marc opened with prayer.

9-2: Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Gerry Koning, 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)

GUEST: Rev. David DenHaan

9-3: Welcome extended to Josh VanDrunen, a new steward and member of the VT.

9-4: MSC to accept, as written, the Vision Team minutes of June 1, 2017.

MSC to accept, as written, the minutes of the August 21, 2017, Vision Team retreat.

9-5: Financial Report from Mel:

A. Mel offered a brief financial report stating that finances are looking good for the remainder of the 2017 fiscal year.

B. Mel reviewed the 2018 budget to be presented at the October 26 meeting.

9-6: Stated Clerk's Report:

Received the ministerial credentials from Rev. Sam Krikke, the new pastor of Searchlight Ministries. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

9-7: October Classis Meeting – Rev. David DenHaan reporting

➤ We are hoping to meet at Jenison Bible Church and are waiting for final confirmation. Dave chose this location so that all are guests and no one is on their home turf.

➤ Reviewed the agenda for the meeting:

- 2(b) - **Renewal Lab discussion:** Dave DenHaan will lead. Recognizing that not all churches have used the Renewal Lab, we need to ask questions and begin a conversation that includes all our churches. Suggested questions for delegates to talk about at their tables:
 1. If your church was involved in the Renewal Lab, what has changed in your church because of the process? Have you noticed an impact or any signs of change in your church?
 2. What new missional activity has your church engaged in because of the renewal process?
 3. How have your values been transformed and how do you measure the change in your church?
 4. If your church was involved in the Renewal Lab, did it have an impact on your church that you didn't expect? Would you do things differently if you could?
- 2(c) - **Classis Georgetown Values Discussion:** Dave Jolman will lead, introducing the Value Stewards and the five classis values. **One week prior to the meeting, each steward is asked to send Dave two or three bullet points, summarizing their value.**

9-8: Habitat for Humanity update

- A. Unity Build Kick-off will be held on September 14 at 6:30 PM. The Swierenga family will be present.
- B. Some difficulty finding a lot to build on.
- C. Jim continues to make individual contacts with church representatives and will begin talking to representatives about financial giving so we are able to cover the cost.
- D. A combined Classis worship service will be planned. Mark B. will connect with Cottonwood about perhaps hosting the service on October 15.
- E. Twenty copies of *Theology of a Hammer* will be ordered and made available for those who want to read it.

9-9: Pastor Josh Benton update

- A. Financial update: Josh has received financial support from Evergreen Ministries with a money match from Classis. Classis and Evergreen Ministries are partnering to offer additional financial assistance if needed.
- B. Ministerial Status: A deadline needs to be in place for Josh to meet expectations so that the classis can recommend him for a call.

9-10: Classis Meeting Planning: Leadership

- A. Dave DenHaan will check with Len Kuyvenhoven, asking if he will continue as chairperson.
- B. Meeting locations ideas are discussed. (suggestion: Grand Ravine Lodge)
- C. Because we want to be gracious and hospitable to all who attend, it may be a good idea to host an orientation for any new delegates prior to the opening of the meetings. This is a way for deacons to feel welcome but also for new elders to understand the process.

9-11: Clergy Mental Health:

Marc N. brought new literature to be distributed at the next Classis Meeting. Communication must be clear that the Employee Assistance Program is available for pastors and their families, as well as church staff.

9-12: Candidacy/Student fund

The committee continues to deal with the concept of classis as a classroom.

9-13: 2018 Requested Grants

Recipients will be notified after the budget is approved at the Classis Meeting in October.

9-14: News on classis churches and other classis information

- A. Baldwin Street CRC extended a three-year contract to Rev. Don VanSlyke. He has accepted and will begin on January 1, 2018.
- B. Mark Bennink thanked the VT for the prayers and condolences offered in the recent passing of his mother-in-law.
- C. Bob Huisman has accepted a call to Heritage CRC in Byron Center. A counselor is needed for Immanuel CRC. This will be on next month's agenda.
- D. A new regional pastor is needed to replace Bob Huisman who will continue through December 31. Marc N. will bring a brief RP job description to the next meeting along with the names of persons who would fit this role.
- E. Update on the May Classis meeting: Rev. John Witvliet, Jr. will not be available to speak because he will be on sabbatical. He will connect with Mark Bennink about another speaker possibility.

9-15: Mark Bennink closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk
Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES:

- Thursday, October 12, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC, Dave J., opening; Kathy, closing
- Classis Georgetown Meeting on Thursday, October 26; location: TBD
- Thursday, November 9, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC
- Thursday, December 14, 12:30 PM, Georgetown CRC