

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of January 25, 2016, 12:30 PM to 2:15 PM
Transforming Lives and Communities
6475 40th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

1-1: Mel read from 2 Kings 23. He commented on his concern for our country and the upcoming election. We need a candidate like Josiah. Also, we as church leaders need to be reformers and continually directing our ministry, both locally and on the classis level, so that it follows God's will.

1-2: Vision Team:

Roll Call, PRESENT:

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

STAFF: Rev. Duane VanderBrug (Chair/Facilitator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer/Web keeper), Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer) and Mrs. Tricia Bosma (Substitute Administrative Assistant/Alternate Stated Clerk)

Roll Call, ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

MEMBERS: Rev. Gerry Koning,

STAFF: Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen (Administrative Assistant/Stated Clerk)

1-3: The minutes of December 10, 2015, stand as written.

1-4: Stated Clerk Report: Duane facilitated in Dee's absence.

A. Synodical Deputies.

1. Mark Bennink as Synodical Deputy and Matt Palsrok as Alt. Synodical Deputy.
2. **Motion was MSC to approve.**

B. Credentials:

1. Request for the transfer of credentials for Susan LaClear from Classis Red Mesa to Alive Ministries.
2. **Motion was MSC to approve this action.**

1-5: Treasurer's Report: Mel reporting:

- A.** Mel feeling better about the balance being back where it needs to be.
- B.** Receipts are still running \$50,000 behind, however.
- C.** Five churches have fallen behind on their classical ministry shares. But, still waiting for 4th quarter payments from three of them.
- D.** Mel, Kathy, and Gerry will draw up a letter that will be sent to these five churches, councils, and treasurers. The letter will explain what happens to the classis ministry shares that are requested from the churches, and how much ministry is accomplished with these monies. The letter will be signed by the voting members of the Vision Team.
- E. Motion was MSC to accept this financial report and plan.**

1-6: Other Financial Issues

A. First Jenison Assests.

1. Acknowledged a letter from Terry Scholten regarding Alive's need for additional property and potential use of 1st Jenison.

2. Reported that 1st Jenison has requested to merge with Baldwin Street CRC but needs to decide whether this will be a merger of 2 congregations or a dispersal of 1st Jenison. This will affect how the assets of 1st Jenison will be handled.
3. Conversation was tabled. We will request that Larry Dornbos will have further discussions with Alive Ministries.

B. Future of Ministry Shares.

1. Acknowledged that as postmodern Millennials begin to assume leadership in the church questions regarding how ministry shares are distributed may arise.
2. The classis level of governance will be on the forefront of that discussion.

1-7: Report on February Classis Meeting.

A. Classis Chairpersons.

1. Gerry Koning will chair in February 2016.
2. Beginning May 2016 Len Kuyvenhoven will preside as chairperson.

B. Immanuel CRC's report on plants for a church plant.

1. Acknowledged the comments from Bob Huisman on the slow approval for some sharing time at a classis meeting regarding their church plant project.
2. Discussion on how to alleviate this problem in the future and how to mend any tension there may be between the Vision Team and Immanuel CRC.

C. In Larry's absence, no further updates were made.

1-8: Culture concerns:

A. Healthy leaders, Marc Nelesen reporting:

1. The recommendation to have a licensed therapist head up the Safe Church part of our ministry has met some challenges. It was discovered that licensed therapists would not want to take on the liability of this type of position.
2. Reported that Christmas gifts for appreciation were given to the support staff of the Vision Team.
3. Reported that they hoped to do a book club with the classis pastors before the summer season.

B. Empowering Worship, Mark Bennink reporting:

1. Reminder of the Worship Symposium at Calvin College this Thursday through Saturday, January 28-30.

C. Daring Hospitality, Dave Jolman reporting:

1. The Safe Families project has fallen through.
2. Dave expressed uncertainty of how to move forward on the classis level.
3. Brainstorming some options from Bethany Christian Services, Department of Social Justice and Lutheran Social Services.

D. Risky compassion

1. No report

E. Collaborative Relationships

1. No report

1-9: Around the Table.

1-10: Dave Jolman closed our meeting with a poem and prayer.

Next meeting dates:

Monday, February 15, 12:30 PM at EGM, Panera lunch
Marc, opening, Dave closing

Thursday, March 24, 12:30 PM at Georgetown CRC, Panera lunch

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Bozma

Substitute Admin. Ass't./Alternate Stated Clerk,
Classis Georgetown VT