

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of February 17, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:15 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

12th Avenue CRC

7581 12th Avenue, Jenison, MI 49428

2-1: For our devotions at this meeting, Mel took his thoughts from I Kings 18-19, where the Lord and Elijah are communicating, and the Lord speaks in a gentle whisper after Elijah had been working hard for him. Are we working so hard for the Lord that we can't hear him speak to us in a gentle whisper? Mel then led us in prayer.

2-2: Vision Team: We had a short time of celebration for Mel and his new wife, Linda, who joined us as we shared a "wedding cake" together.

Roll Call, PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Larry Doornbos, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Gerry Koning, Rev. Marc Nelesen

STAFF: Rev. Duane VanderBrug (Chair/Facilitator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer/Web keeper), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer) and Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen (Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor/Stated Clerk)

2-3: The minutes of January 13, 2015, stand as written.

2-4: Planning Classis Planning Task Meetings:

- A. The Classis Planner, Value Steward (for each meeting), Stated Clerk, and Classis Chair/president, will meet together to make this process function more smoothly. The Value Steward of the value of each classis meeting will convene the Task Force and the Value Steward and the Stated Clerk will report to the VT on any recommendations.
- B. Rev. Dave Den Haan will be asked to be the president of classis 2015 meetings.
- C. Larry will convene the planning task force for the September classis meeting featuring the value of Collaborative Relationships. Information on Calvin Seminary's Learning Lab and Western Seminary's Ridder Church Renewal lab may be combined for that meeting.

2-5: Agenda for February 19, 2015 Classis Georgetown meeting:

Except for a few small details everything is in place for the classis meeting on February 19, 2015, beginning at 4 PM.

2-6: Classical Examination/Job Description:

On July 24, 2013, Mr. Josh Shaarda successfully completed a classical examination as a Commissioned Pastor in Uganda under the supervision of Georgetown CRC. Shaarda has informed the Georgetown CRC council that he is no longer working with International Teams and is looking for a new organization with which he can partner in the same village where he is working. Georgetown CRC will be following up on this to make sure that a new affiliation fits the job description that was approved for his ordination as a Commissioned Pastor.

2-7: Classical Exams for Role of Commissioned Pastors:

The following draft proposal was approved by the Vision Team for presentation to Classis Georgetown at their September meeting:

Processing requests to:

1. **Approve** “other work” for a minister of the Word as “consistent with the calling of a minister of the Word.”
2. **“Determine”** whether or not a commissioned pastor position to which a person is being called fits the guidelines adopted by Synod 2001. (cf Supplement to the CO Art. 12c and 23a)

The Vision Team recommends that Classis Georgetown authorize the following process/procedure:

- A. When a council desires to call a person to “other work” as a minister of the Word or to a commissioned pastor position, it submits the required documentation to the Vision Team. (cf Church Order Supplement to Art. 12c and 23a)
- B. The Vision Team reviews the documentation and requests any additional information or revisions it deems necessary. After it has secured the necessary documentation, it decides either **to grant or to deny** the council’s request to extend a call.
- C. If the Vision Team grants the request, it sends the documentation to (3) three Synodical Deputies:
 - notifying them of its decision,
 - asking them if they need additional information or documentation, and
 - requesting their concurrence.
- D. If the Vision Team **denies** the request, it notifies the church council with its reason(s) for the denial. The church council can revise its request or appeal the decision by requesting the Vision Team to seek the advice of classis.

2-8: In-service training invitation, Duane reporting:

An in-service training invitation was received from the Candidacy Committee and the Classis Renewal Ministry Team, to be held on April 29, 30, and May 1. April 30 will be a day long presentation on Ministry of Funerals. The other two days would be conversations on mentoring, and classis vitality and functioning. Duane will respond electronically with more specific details for those interested in attending.

2-9: Worksheet for big –picture outcomes for vales, Duane reporting:

As he keeps the worksheet of Values before the VT, these are some of the questions that need to be worked through:

- is there a connection between values
- where do we go from here
- what do we do next
- for what do we pray

2-10: Vision Team report to classis, Gerry reporting:

- what will classis look like in 2017
- for what outcomes should we pray
- where do we get the help we need

2-11: Other:

On behalf of our Classis Prayer Coordinator, Rev. Tim Holwerda, Mark asked if there was any financial assistance available for him to attend a prayer summit conference. **Motion was made, seconded and carried to provide up to \$700 from the worship budget.**

2:12: Stated Clerk's report, Dee reporting:

- A. She will bring a position description for the Alternate Stated Clerk position to the next VT meeting.
- B. **Rev. Jim Vander Schaaf, on behalf of CJC, is asking for permission to use the Classis mailing list that is on file at the denomination office for 3 years, from March 1, 2015, through February 28, 2018. Motion was MSC to grant this request.**

2-13: Financial Report, Mel reporting:

Finances are in relatively stable condition and the report was accepted as written.

2-14: Gerry closed our meeting with prayer.

2-15: Next meeting dates:

Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting at Georgetown CRC, Dave, devotions; Larry, closing prayer

THURSDAY, April 23, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting at First Hudsonville, Mark, opening; Kathy, closing prayer

Respectfully submitted,

DeeVanHeuvelen, Administrative Assistant/Stated Clerk

Classis Georgetown Vision Team