

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of October 22, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

12th Avenue CRC

7581 12th Avenue, Jenison, MI 49418

10-1: Dave J. began our devotions by reading from Psalm 71 and a devotional based on that Psalm. In these verses we are reminded that God is our rock and fortress, and our refuge. We are to love the Lord our God and seek His commands, and God will be there for us. This was followed by an opening prayer.

10-2: Vision Team:

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), Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer) and Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen (Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor/Stated Clerk)

GUEST: Rev. Dave Den Haan, president/chair for the upcoming classis meeting

10-3: The minutes of August 25, 2015, stand as written.

10-4: Classis meeting of September 17, 2015:

Concerning the classical exam of Shelby Gemmen:

- A. Rev. Tom Kragt and Rev. Stan Drenth will be the examiners.
- B. Synodical Deputies will be Rev. Sid Draayer (GR North), Rev. Doug Fauble (Grandville) and Rev. Stan Scripps (Holland). They have received needed materials.
- C. This exam will proceed according to Article 13-c in the Church Order.
- D. Pension payments and remuneration are the responsibility of Grant Reformed Church .
- E. This classical exam is a new experience for our classis, and this needs to be made clear to the delegates.

10-5: Credentials:

A completed report was not available since a few churches have yet to send in their credentials.

10-6: Deacons delegated to classis and synod:

Some excellent thoughts were presented as this topic was discussed at length. A brief list is as follows (contributed by Duane):

- make this a BIG, festive, inaugural event for ALL the delegates
- keep it simple (don't attempt to do too much in that meeting)
- meet in a place where and at a time when it is easiest for the deacons to attend
- design the meeting to teach ALL the delegates and visitors how to work together for the sake of not only the individual churches but also for the whole classis
- design the agenda so the ordination vows of all 3 offices are represented
- strongly URGE churches to select deacon and elder delegates who will attend the whole year

- for this meeting strongly encourage churches to bring as many deacons as they can as visitors for introductory orientation to classis and its work, so churches have a ready supply of deacons delegates (ask churches to provide names of visitors both for head count for food and for pre-printed name tags)
- make it memorable so delegates are unforgettably aware that it's a new day and we sing a new song!
- Larry will send out a couple of suggestions for the February classis meeting

10-7: Growing Classis' Five Values, Value Stewards reporting:

A. Healthy Leaders, Marc reporting (electronically):

1. RP initiated lunches/coffees are highly valued.
2. We heard an interest in a book club once again.
3. We heard appreciation for the White Caps event and possibly making that an annual tradition. Possibility for February is to gather together 4 clergy couples for dinner, support, fellowship, and whatever else happens from these meetings.
4. Another classis lunch in which pastors are asked to ponder this question, "there is a growing gulf between the church culture that pastors and congregations seem to wish to perpetuate and the culture(s) around us." In light of that, what are ways in which the church needs to reimagine itself (and the cultures) so that it can meaningfully engage them?
5. There is a desire for coordination of Classis events.

10-8: Request for classis mailing list:

The CRCNA no longer sends out mailing lists for individual classes because of some issues with privacy, mainly in the Canadian churches, so individual organizations are requesting lists from each individual classis. The only lists we have are at the denominational offices, so we need to grant permission to organizations to use this list. The VT accepted the request of Criminal Justice Chaplaincy because they are a grant recipient, but denied the request of Elim because of distance.

10-9: The remaining items on the agenda will wait until our next meeting in November.

10-10: Gerry closed our meeting with prayer.

Next meeting dates:

THURSDAY, November 12, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at EverGreen Ministries, Larry opening; Mel closing

THURSDAY, December 10, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at Georgetown CRC, Mark opening; Kathy closing

Respectfully submitted,
DeeVanHeuvelen
 Admin. Ass't./Stated Clerk,
 Classis Georgetown VT