

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of December 10, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

6475 40th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

12-1: Mark read from Luke 1:46-55, which is known as Mary's song. He is preaching on the some of the lesser known Christmas songs, like this one in which God lifts up the humble, but opposes the proud. In his opening prayer he included a prayer for Dave's brother-in-law, who recently found out that he has an inoperable cancer, and also prayed for the work of the Vision Team.

12-2: 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)

12-3: The minutes of November 12, 2015, stand as written.

12-4: Review of grants:

A. Gerry reported on three grants:

1. Celebration Fellowship CRC is doing well and hopes to plant a church in a women's prison.
2. Georgetown Harmony Homes is doing well in dealing with serious cuts in finances because of government cuts, but is still hoping to build another home.
3. The Youth for Christ grant was originally to supplement Rev. Marv Vander Vliet's salary, but he has retired and is now working as a volunteer, so this grant may need to be reconsidered.
4. **Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve these grants through 2016.**

B. Dave reported on two grants:

1. Campus Ministry at Grand Valley is doing well and is working with a large number of students.
2. Criminal Justice Chaplaincy is working on their mentoring, adding more mentors and more training.
3. **Motion was MSC to continue these grants through 2016.**

12-5: Credentials:

Dee reported that the credentials for Rev. Dan Gritter were received from Classis Grand Rapids South and will be sent to the Jamestown CRC and copied to the Office of Synodical Services. **Motion was MSC to approve this action.**

12-6: Duane's remuneration:

Motion was MSC to approve these monies as housing allowance.

12-7: Financial report, Mel reporting:

- A.** The need exists for a realistic budget.

- B. Gerry, with the help of Mel and Kathy will draw up a letter that will be sent to all 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.
- C. Monies in the Land Acquisition Fund will not drop below \$100,000.
- D. **Motion was MSC to accept this financial report and plan.**

12-8: Classis Meeting of February 18, 2016, Larry reporting:

Some of the things that were decided are listed below:

- Ephesians 4 will be the source of imagination for having elders and deacons work together
- Equip is the engine in the church order that brings collaboration
- Question is how do elders, deacons, and church leaders get equipped so that they may equip others
- Need to find real stories to share
- Larry will draw up another copy of a possible agenda

12-9: Culture concerns:

A. Healthy leaders, Marc reporting:

1. He would like to have a licensed therapist head up the Safe Church part of our ministry, primarily for legal reasons. This was tabled until our next meeting.
2. He informed us of a classis wide calendar that is now on our website.
3. Josh Shaarda, a member of Georgetown CRC, is requesting endorsement of his Commissioned Pastor status for a new organization called, Freedom in Christ Ministries in Uganda. He is still a partner missionary with CRWM. **Motion was MSC to approve this request.**

B. Empowering Worship, Mark reporting:

1. Since Rev. Adam Barton's call is completed this coming summer there has been discussion at First Jenison about a possible merger. Baldwin Street, Twelfth Avenue, Fairway, EverGreen Ministries and Hillcrest have all volunteered to take these people.
2. Discussion needs to take place as to stewardly allocating assets of any churches that close.

C. Daring Hospitality, Dave reporting:

1. Hillcrest CRC has been working on the safe family project.
2. Dave has been working on some hospitality things with the youth leader at Messiah CRC, Fig Vander Molen.

D. Risky compassion, Gerry reporting:

1. Georgetown Harmony Homes is moving forward with plans to build another home.
2. On December 24, a group of Muslims from the mosque in Grand Rapids will share a meal with our Somalian Church, Strong Tower Ministries. The purpose will be to live in peace together. Dialogue is needed more than conversation.

E. Collaborative Relationships, Larry reporting:

His report was contained in the February Classis meeting details.

12-10: Kathy closed our meeting with prayer.

Next meeting dates:

**TUESDAY, January 12, 2016, 12:30 PM at Georgetown CRC,
Panera lunch, Mel opening, Dave closing**

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

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