

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of April 23, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

First Hudsonville CRC
5486 32nd Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

4-1: Mark opened our devotional time by reading Luke 6:43-45. He noted that the line of good and evil runs through all of our hearts. The teachings of Jesus need to be the foundation of both our lives personally, and for the values of classis. He then opened with prayer asking that God would help us to be powerful witnesses to His words.

4-2: 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), and Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen (Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor/Stated Clerk)

GUESTS: Rev. Dave Den Haan, and Rev. Josh Van Drunen, both from the Classis Planning Task Force

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Mel Vander Bie, Treasurer

4-3: The minutes of March 17, 2015, stand as written.

4-4: Preview of Classis Meeting of May 21, 2015, Mark, Josh, Dave, Dee reporting:

- A. **Classis President Dave Den Haan will not be able to stay for the entire meeting, and Vice President Matt Palsrok, also notified that he could possibly be out of town, so the motion was made, seconded, and passed to have Gerry Koning chair the second half of the meeting.**
- B. The location of this meeting is Friendship Chapel, 7754 28th Avenue, Jenison, MI 49428 and the time will be from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- C. Josh would like to create a better mix between "regular business" and times of worship and/or prayer.
- D. Dave will talk with Rev. Bob Huisman, who attended a prayer summit in Korea, and Rev. Tim Holwerda, who attended a prayer summit in California, and encourage them to define their experiences in a way that classis delegates can relate.
- E. Churches will be asked to send in their credentials by May 14, so that the VT has time to process on any requests that are sent in that way. The VT will serve as the credential committee.
- F. Closing worship will include communion.

4-5: Agenda for September 17, 2015 Classis Georgetown meeting, Larry reporting:

- A. The Value to be highlighted will be Collaborative Relationships.
- B. Larry has several ideas in process and will have more plans to share at our next VT meeting.

4-6: Classis selection of Synod delegates:

After a brief conversation, the VT confirmed the process of selecting this year's delegates to synod.

4-7: Growing Classis' Five Values, Value Stewards reporting:

A. Healthy Leaders, Marc reporting:

1. The R.P.'s have had calls from 3 pastors outside of our classis requesting their services, calls which have resulted from good reviews of their work.
2. Participation in the services that are available from Pine Rest for pastors, their families and church staff, is being utilized, but much more help is available.
3. He has met with Rev. Stan Drenth, chair of the Student Loan Fund, and has encouraged this committee to prioritize funding and to make it value driven rather than budget driven.
4. A welcome lunch will be held for the new pastor at Messiah CRC, Rev. Nate Meldrim.

B. Empowering Worship, Mark reporting:

No report as he has been busy with the upcoming classis meeting.

C. Daring Hospitality, Dave reporting:

1. There will be a luncheon at First Hudsonville on May 14, from 11:30 to 1 PM to which all pastors and church ministry leaders are invited. Mr. Tim Nolan from Bethany Christian Services will share about Safe Families for Children, which is short term foster care.

D. Risky Compassion, Gerry reporting:

1. Because of large decreases in funding, places like Georgetown Harmony Homes will now need to find other sources of funding and are trying to connect with local churches for both financial help and volunteers.
2. Churches are encouraged to donate services as well, such as outings for residents.
3. Work continues on the Rush Creek watershed, with a walk through scheduled soon.
4. Activity continues with the church plant for Somali Muslims. A building at 2851 Buchanan, Wyoming, has been leased and services were held on Easter Sunday with an attendance of 25, with attendance between 40-50 the next week. Most of these people are former or present Muslims. A basic need exists for transportation. Trinity CRC is the contact church for this new church, and they are working with both CRC and RCA congregations, and with Kuyper College. They are thankful for many donations of supplies from several of our Classis GT churches.
5. Larry will write up a grant proposal for this new church plant which would provide funds so that their pastor can devote less time to his full time employment, and spend more time in this ministry. This proposal will come to the Vision Team before the May classis meeting.

4-9: Financials, Grant Policy, and Church planting:

In Mel's absence, grants were discussed with questions raised as whether or not a new way of church planting could be covered by a grant. Another question raised was if a better plan for grants would be increasing the amount for fewer grants.

4-10: CRCNA Stats on evangelism, Duane reporting:

The following information was presented for thoughts and for concern:

- 44 persons were received through evangelism in the churches of Class GT
- 2,555 persons were received through evangelism in the entire CRCNA
- Classis GT shows 1 church had 27, 1 had 7, 6 had a total of 10, and 12 had 0.
- Ratio in Classis GT is 1 to 205 total members or 1 to 153 professing members
- Ratio in the CRCNA is 1 to 198 total members or 1 in 170 professing members

4-11: Kathy closed our meeting with prayer.

Next meeting dates:

TUESDAY, May 19, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at Classis Georgetown Office, 5923 Gleneagle Trail, Hudsonville, Larry, opening; Marc, closing prayer

TUESDAY, June 9, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at Evergreen, Gerry, opening; Mel, closing prayer

TUESDAY, July 14, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at Georgetown, Kathy, opening; Mark, closing prayer

TUESDAY, August 25, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at Trinity, Dave, opening; Larry closing prayer

Respectfully submitted,

DeeVanHeuvelen, Administrative Assistant/Stated Clerk

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