

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of June 9, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

EverGreen Ministries
4512 48th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

6-1: In Gerry's absence, Kathy opened our meeting by reading 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. She made particular notice of verse 14, where it says that Christ's love compels us to do this ministry of reconciliation. Thus our primary motivation for doing the work of the Vision Team needs to be Christ's love. She opened with prayer.

6-2: 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. Dee VanHeuvelen (Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor/Stated Clerk)

AWN: Rev. Larry Doornbos, Rev. Gerry Koning

6-3: The minutes of May 19, 2015, stand as written.

6-4: Culture concerns:

What evidence does the VT see/experience that the edges of the classical values are growing in its culture, and expanding classis' comfort zone in a way worthy of Christ's disciples? And where can/do we see transformation?

- It's a new day in classis, and we can sense it and feel it, it is worth "the price of admission."
- An unexpected outcome is that many churches are interested in the Renewal Lab.
- Our values are very clear, but our vision could be worked on.
- We have sufficient funds to pay for several projects/ministries/grants.

6-5: Reflections on Classis Georgetown meeting of May 21, 2015:

- A. Overall the meeting was appreciated, especially the time spent in prayer, the different types of prayer, and the prayer experiences of both Rev. Bob Huisman, from the Korean Prayer Summit, and Rev. Tim Holwerda, from the California Prayer Summit.
- B. Our guest, Mr. Ernest Umoh, from the Somalian Church, especially appreciated the service.
- C. Music could have been more focused on the topic of prayer.

6-6: Reflections on Classis Georgetown meeting of September 17, 2015:

- A. Theme will be Collaborative Relationships.
- B. Due to Larry's absence, no report was presented.
- C. A late request came on the credentials from Ridgewood CRC to the May 21, 2015, classis meeting concerning the Classical Examination for Candidate Richard Visser, who has received a two-year term call from Ridgewood to serve as Family Based Ministry Director. Marc will select a preaching text with Candidate Visser, serve as the examiner, and will secure two sermon critics. The plan is to proceed with this examination at the next classis meeting if time allows.

6-7: In response to request about Daniel Vander Ley e-mail:

Churches are asked to respond individually and with other churches if they wish. Information from others churches should be regarded as confidential, and not passed on. The possibility exists that legal issues may be raised, but a church would have to contact legal representation if they choose.

6-8: Growing Classis' five values:

A. Healthy Leaders, Marc reporting:

1. Individual church council members are asking Marc and Bob for coffee dates to discuss issues in their own councils.
2. Marc is waiting for a copy of the updated Student Loan Fund rewritten guidelines.
3. Jamestown is getting closer to calling a pastor.

B. Empowering Worship, Mark reporting:

1. The variations on the types of prayer at the last classis meeting were appreciated.

C. Daring Hospitality, Dave reporting:

1. Hillcrest, Searchlight Ministries, Alive, and Fairway, and possible other churches, are interested in the Safe Families for Children program through Bethany Christian Services. This program addresses services that the state no longer provides and the churches are picking up on them.
2. Dave continues to be in contact with Bethany Christian Services.

D. Risky Compassion, Kathy reporting for Gerry:

1. Gerry is requesting that we change the date of the May 2016 Classis meeting to May 26 in order to schedule Mr. Erik Carter to speak. Verbal agreement has been expressed. Mr. Carter speaks on how churches can and should come along side people with disabilities, help them find employment, and be a part of their community.

E. Collaborative Relationships, no report in Larry's absence:

6-9: Grant Proposals, Kathy reporting for Risky Compassion grants:

- A. Youth For Christ/Juvenile Justice Ministry:** requesting \$6,000, suggested same
- B. Celebration Fellowship Church:** requesting \$6,000, suggested same
- C. Georgetown Harmony Homes:** requesting \$9,000 (\$7,500 plus \$1,500 for director), recommendation \$9,000

Grant Proposals, Dave reporting for Daring Hospitality grants:

- D. Criminal Justice Chaplaincy:** requesting \$9,000, suggested same
- E. Campus Ministry, Grand Valley:** requesting \$5,000, suggested same
- F.** The Vision Team is recommending a total grant amount of \$35,000, subject to adjustments.

6-10: Discipleship Training Project, Dave reporting:

Dave Jolman and Dave Den Haan have been approved to attend the Discipleship Training Project with Rev. Scott Vander Ploeg in Florida. The training consists of 3 two day sessions in Florida, and 1 two day session locally. Motion was made and approved at our last VT meeting on May 19, to pay ½ the cost of the training for a cost of \$1,500. However, the original numbers given to them were incorrect, so the VT has been asked, and agreed to, funding the sum of \$2,920 per person. A motion for an amended amount will be on the agenda next month.

6-11: Stated Clerk's report, Dee reporting:

No additional information was provided, so the report as received is approved.

6-12: Financial report, Mel reporting:

No additional information was provided, so the report as received is approved.

6-13: Other:

- A. Rev. Ben Becksvoort, the Regional Home Missions Leader for Classis Georgetown, died from a long bout with cancer. His inspiration, dedication, encouragement, and support will be long remembered. Dee will send a memorial plant to his family.
- B. Rev. Josh Van Drunen submitted his resignation as Classis Planner for the Vision Team due to increased family duties. This was accepted by the VT with understanding, but also with deep appreciation for all he has contributed to the "new" classis. Dee will send him a card of thanks.
- C. A replacement will be needed for Josh, so with agreement of the VT, Duane will ask Rev. Dave Den Haan to fill this vacancy.
- D. Mark asked for prayers as he, his teenaged daughter, and several others from the 12th Avenue church family, as they leave on Monday, June 15, for a mission trip to Hungary and Romania.

6-14: Marc closed our meeting.

Next meeting dates:

TUESDAY, July 14, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at Georgetown, Gerry, 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
Classis Georgetown Vision Team