

**CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM**  
**Minutes of August 25, 2015, 12:30 PM to 3:10 PM**

*Transforming Lives and Communities*

**Trinity CRC**

**0-60 Port Sheldon Road, Grandville, MI 49418**

**8-1:** In Dave's absence, Dee led us in a responsive reading of the Lord's Prayer with added commentary from the Heidelberg Catechism.

**8-2: Vision Team:**

**Roll Call, PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:** Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Larry Doornbos, 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)

**Absent with notice:** Rev. Dave Jolman

**8-3: The minutes of July 14, 2015, stand as written.**

**8-4: Budget and Friendship Chapel grant:**

- A. Discussion included providing monies for staff members, which has not been done previously.
- B. Suggestion was made that when Revs. Dave Den Haan and Dave Jolman have completed their discipleship training this fall, that Friendship Chapel be one of their priorities in putting their training into practice.
- C. **Motion was made, seconded, and carried to deny the grant to Friendship Chapel for the reasons listed above.**
- D. Den Haan and Jolman will be encouraged to work with Friendship in developing a discipleship ministry.
- E. **Motion was MSC to transfer the money that was designated in the proposed budget for this grant to the NCD Fund (New Church Development).**
- F. Mel will send out a revised proposed budget to be sent to the churches.
- G. Duane will notify Den Haan and Jolman of this decision, and Larry will do the same for Rev. Josh Benton of Friendship Chapel.
- H. Suggestion was made by Gerry to add the name of Strong Tower Ministries to Somali Church grant.
- I. **Suggestion was also made to request delegates to e-mail their questions about the budget or other financial matters before the September 17 classis meeting. All questions submitted to [classisgt@i2k.com](mailto:classisgt@i2k.com) before September 9, will be given a response.**
- J. **Motion was MSC to approve the budget as revised at this meeting.**

**8-5: Credentials:**

Rev. James Molenbeek has asked that his credentials be transferred from Ridgewood CRC to LaGrave Avenue CRC in Grand Rapids. Ridgewood's clerk and council will act on this request.

**8-6: Agenda for September 17, 2015 Classis Georgetown meeting, Larry reporting:**

The agenda will follow the listed format:

- 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM – Opening and devotions, including what does collaboration look like today
- 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM will be the classical exam of Candidate Rich Visser, called as Family Based Ministry Director at Ridgewood CRC
- 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, dinner
- 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Classis business
  - ~Synodical Reports
  - ~Student Fund Report
  - ~Vision Team Report
  - ~Financial Report
  - ~Budget for 2016
  - ~Stated Clerk's Report
- 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM—Collaborative Learning and Conversation

**8-7: Request for classical exam:**

Shelby Gemmen has been serving as an intern at Immanuel CRC and at the past synod meeting was declared a candidate for ministry of the Word and sacraments in the CRCNA. The Immanuel Council has requested a classical exam to take place in Classis Georgetown. Gemmen has accepted a call to the Grant Reformed Church in Grant, MI. Since there are no clear guidelines in the Church Order, Gerry will have conversations with Rev. Dave Koll from the Office of Candidacy and with Gemmen in order to come to a workable solution. Immanuel CRC will also need to be in communication with the Grant church. (This item is referenced in the Manual for Synodical Deputies for 2014, thanks, Gerry).

**8-8: Student Loan Fund:**

The following guidelines have been adopted by the Student Loan Fund Committee:

- The churches shall encourage individuals to seek to become ministers of the Word and, in coordination with classis, shall grant financial aid to those who are in need of it. (Article 21)

Proposal:

To provide up to 50% of the cost for tuition and books for eligible Classis Georgetown M.Div. students at Calvin Seminary, and up to 30% for eligible Classis Georgetown M.Div students at other Reformed seminaries. These percentages apply to full or part-time students.

To provide up to 25% assistance for degree-seeking students at Calvin Seminary in other programs.

Grounds:

- 1) Higher education costs are rising exponentially. Classis Georgetown is better served with a percentile goal than a fixed dollar amount.
- 2) These goals reflect the priority of the classis and the denomination in focusing our needs-based assistance to those seeking to serve as ordained pastors in parish settings.

Explanatory Notes:

1. The estimated costs for tuition and books for the M.Div program at CTS in the 2015-16 academic year is \$16,898 (which has been rounded up to \$17,000)

2. Classis Georgetown is on the low side in this category, offering \$4.71/member to Student Financial Aid compared to the denominational average of \$5.94/member

**Motion was MSC to approve these guidelines.**

**8-9: Seating of deacons at Classis meetings:**

This item will be addressed more fully at upcoming meetings.

**8-10: Growing Classis' Five Values, Value Stewards reporting:**

A. Healthy Leaders, Marc reporting:

1. Rev. Dan Gritter's credentials will be transferred soon from First Cutlerville CRC to Classis Georgetown and then to the Jamestown CRC.
2. More than 50 clergy and family will be attending a Whitecaps baseball game this week.
3. Marc and Bob Huisman, both Regional Pastors, will be hosting a pastor's lunch on Wednesday, October 21, from 11:30 to 1, at Main Street Pub in Allendale. Please respond to Marc at [marcn@georgetowncrc.org](mailto:marcn@georgetowncrc.org).

B. Collaborative Relationships, Larry reporting:

Several visits have been made to First Jenison, but any helpful change is not imminent.

C. Empowering Worship, Mark reporting:

1. The dedication and community worship for the new Unity Christian High School building is being planned for September 27 at 4:30 PM. Students will be leading worship and Mr. Dan Landstra, Unity Bible teacher, will be the main speaker.
2. Several Jenison area churches have been holding a combined service once a month for over a year.

D. Risky Compassion, Gerry reporting:

With the closing of Kandú, a company specializing in providing employment for people with special needs, Georgetown Harmony Homes will need to provide more staff. Churches are encouraged to realize the need and become involved.

**8-11: Church stats re "Received Through Evangelism," Duane reporting:**

What would you need to happen in your congregation to bring members to Christ. What can we do to be productive? We need to start with prayer.

**8-12: Other:**

- A. Rev. Dave Den Haan has accepted the offer to be on the classis meeting task force and will begin after the September classis meeting.
- B. Since Dave DH is changing roles, we will need suggestions for Classis President for next year, so each VT member is asked to bring 1 or 2 names to our next meeting.
- C. Since the 10:24 Program has not taken hold for a sizable number of churches, the possibility exists that it may need to be scrapped and/or reinvented.
- D. The Vision Team approved the appointments of one year to September 2016 for Duane as Chair/Facilitator and Dee as Administrative Assistant/Stated Clerk.
- E. In response to a request from Synod that each classis participate in the "Blanket Exercise," Gerry will be trained as a facilitator and will be available for classis or for any church in our classis.

**8-13: Larry closed our meeting with prayer.**

**Next meeting dates:**

**THURSDAY, September 10, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at  
First Hudsonville, Mel opening; Marc closing prayer**

**THURSDAY, October 22, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at  
12<sup>th</sup> Avenue CRC, Dave opening; Gerry closing**

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