

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of May 19, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

Classis Georgetown Home Office
5923 Gleneagle Trail, Hudsonville, MI 49426

5-1: Luke 18: 1-8 were the verses that Larry chose for his devotions. He mentioned that justice and mercy are often thought about as just Old Testament words, and mercy is a New Testament word. Nevertheless, both of these words are just as important today. As the question is posed, will the Son of Man find us faithful, is something that prayer is powerful in accomplishing. We need to be reminded of and practice prayer as it has great power to change lives.

5-2: 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)

5-3: The minutes of April 23, 2015, stand as written.

5-4: Preview of Classis Meeting of May 21, 2015, Mark, reporting:

- A. Mark has been in contact with Rev. Josh Benton and the host church, Friendship Chapel, and things are working out well.
- 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. Tricia Bosma, 10:24 Coordinator Team will address in the VT report some concerns about "church visiting" and the 10:24 program.
- D. The Vision Team will meet a couple of days before each classis meeting to address any issues that come in on the credentials reports.
- E. Churches were asked to send in their credentials by May 14, so that the VT had time to process on any requests that are sent in that way. Three churches missed that date. The VT will serve as the credential committee.
- F. The Classis Planning team has suggested that we have someone visit our hosts for the Classis meeting to get acquainted and to share prayers for each other. Tricia Bosma, Alternate Stated Clerk, was able to make that visit.

5-5: 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.

5-6: Growing Classis' Five Values, Value Stewards reporting:

A. Healthy Leaders, Marc reporting:

- 1. Marc is working on another possible book group.
- 2. Bob is working on securing tickets for a White Caps baseball game.

B. Empowering Worship, Mark reporting:

1. He will communicate with Jerry De Groot, Superintendent at Unity about the upcoming worship and dedication of Unity's new building. Our churches are encouraged to attend this service, but out of respect to those families in our churches who chooses other options for education, the VT will not be a sponsor.

C. Daring Hospitality, Dave reporting:

1. Eighteen people attended the luncheon at First Hudsonville, and heard a presentation about Safe Families for Children, and a good level of interest was expressed.
2. Dave continues to be in contact with Bethany Christian Services.

D. Risky Compassion, Gerry reporting:

1. He is working with several other people and organizations and who have secured a government grant of \$220,000 to improve the Rush Creek Watershed. This will be used in part to help churches that have built in the flood plain develop water gardens.
2. Gerry and others interested in this project have also partnered with The Rush Creek Council of Cadets for projects.
3. Ottawa County Mental Health has been brainstorming for lack of funding for many of its clients.

E. Collaborative Relationships, Larry reporting:

1. He has drawn up a proposal for a new church plant with Somalian refugees that is being supported by Trinity CRC. Dave will present this at the Classis meeting as a form of Daring Hospitality. The proposal is copied below, followed by a motion:

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING FOR CHURCH PLANT AMONG SOMALI IMMIGRANTS

Background:

Trinity CRC has taken leadership in our classis in the important work of reaching out to Somali immigrants. This group of immigrants is largely Muslim in background and is seeking to find their way in their new home in the U.S. Rev. Gerry Koning has developed a strong relationship with Ernest Umoh, who has the heart of an evangelist and a heart for Somali people.

The result of these efforts is that a new congregation was begun on Easter Sunday 2015, in space leased in Wyoming. Presently there are up to 40 people who are part of this worshipping community—a good number are still Muslim and exploring who Jesus is. In the world of church planting, this number of people is a good core beginning.

While it is a good core, the Somali community is limited in the resources it has to sustain this congregation and pay a pastor. At this time Ernest Umoh is working full time and leading the congregation.

Trinity CRC is shepherding Ernest and this church as they move forward.

Recommendation:

That Classis Georgetown give a three year declining grant (\$10,000 2015; \$8,000 2016; \$6,000 2017) to support this ministry. The money will be specifically for salary support for the pastor so that he can spend more time building this congregation and reaching out to other Somali immigrants.

This will be taken from the Church Planting portion of our budget.

Grounds

There is a need to reach out to immigrants in our community. This provides us with a unique opportunity to reach out to Muslim immigrants who need the gospel.

The church has a good start but needs funding to grow stronger.
The declining grant gives time for the church to establish itself and become more self-sufficient.
The grant fits with our desire as a classis to welcome the stranger.
This grant fits with our classis' goal to work collaboratively.
Trinity CRC's connection and work with this congregation keeps a vital connection between this new church and classis.

Recommendation

That Classis Georgetown give a three year declining grant (\$10,000 2015; \$8,000 2016; \$6,000 2017) to support this ministry. This money will be specifically for salary support for the pastor so that he can spend more time building this congregation and reaching out to other Somali immigrants. This recommendation was MSC.

The money for this will be taken from the Church Planting portion of our budget.

5-7: Discipleship Training Project, Dave reporting:

Dave Jolman and Dave Den Haan are considering attending 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 that Classis pay ½ the cost of discipleship training for Dave and Dave for a full cost of \$1,500.00. Dave and Dave agree to give a report on their training at the September Classis Meeting. They will also each disciple one pastor in Classis Georgetown to further this discipling work. Motion was MSC.**

5-8: Outside Grants:

The grant applications were distributed according to the values assigned.
Daring Hospitality, Dave, will report on Criminal Justice Chaplaincy and Campus Ministry
Risky Compassion, Gerry, will report on Youth for Christ, Georgetown Harmony Homes, and Celebration Fellowship Church.

5-9: Larry closed our meeting with prayer in Marc's absence.

Next meeting dates:

TUESDAY, June 9, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) 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
Classis Georgetown Vision Team