

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of March 17, 2015, 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

Georgetown CRC
6475 40th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

3-1: Dave chose a book titled "Celtic Benedictions" for opening devotions. He read several Scripture passages which were interspersed with prayers, such as early morning prayer, prayers of intercession, and closing prayer. He reflected on the words "Let my life be grounded in your peace."

3-2: 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), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer) and Mrs. Dee VanHeuvelen (Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor/Stated Clerk)

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

3-4: Review of Classis Meeting of February 19, 2015:

- A. Pluses were that it was good to be with people of another culture; many encouraging responses were received about the dinner and fellowship while eating Sudanese food.
- B. Need improvements in the voting system for synod delegates; if delegates are asked to do "homework" beforehand they need time to respond at the meeting; there is a need to encourage requests on input of any issue before the actual meeting rather than during the meeting. Duane will respond with a letter to Rev. Ron Meyer concerning his concerns about Classis Georgetown.

3-5: Agenda for May 21, 2015 Classis Georgetown meeting, Mark reporting:

- A. **The theme will be "Broadening Our Focus and Practice of Prayer."**
- B. The location will be Friendship Chapel.
- C. The meeting will be a mix of different types of prayer, worship and business.
- D. Rev. Tim Holwerda (California), and Rev. Bob Huisman (Korea), will be asked to share their prayer summit experiences.
- E. Dr. Steven Timmermans will be requested to join us in prayer and we will pray for him and for the denomination.
- F. The meeting will close with communion.
- G. The meeting on March 12, 2015, of the Classis Planning Group was very beneficial.

3-6: Agenda for September 17, 2015 Classis Georgetown meeting, Larry reporting:

- A. The value highlighted will be Collaborative Relationships.
- B. Pastors and elders of each church will be asked prior to the meeting about their perspectives on their respective churches.
- C. Delegates from each church will be asked to clarify where their churches are at and what the hopes are for each of them.
- D. Amy Schenkel will be asked to help us work through this information.
- E. Values of the Wilder Survey and the Calvin Seminary Learning Lab will be provided.

3-7: In service opportunity, Duane reporting:

Any who are going are asked to register directly through the information provided earlier.

3-8: Culture Concerns: Growing Classis Five Values, Duane reporting:

A.. Any member of the VT can comment on/make suggestions about any of the 5 values.

B. Healthy Leaders, Marc reporting:

- The Shaarda's, working in Africa are still looking for a sponsoring organization, and the situation continues to be monitored by Georgetown CRC.
- Jamestown CRC has begun the process of looking for a potential pastor.
- The Pine Rest Program for clergy, their families and church staff is going well.
- A "conversation" with Dr. Walter Bruggeman will be held at Georgetown next week.

C. Empowering Worship, Mark reporting:

Much of his time has been spent on planning the May classis meeting.

D. Daring Hospitality, Dave reporting:

- He has been having conversations with Bethany Christian Services personnel about a program for Short Term Respite for children.
- This ministry is growing very rapidly, and people that sign up will receive training.
- He would like to know if any churches are doing this and if we can encourage this program in our classis.

E. Risky Compassion, Gerry reporting:

- He has been working with the Plaster Creek Stewards to develop a program for Rush Creek, and has spoken with several professional people in this area.
- The churches need to be aware of compassion for our creation.
- The VT needs to decide what is informative and what could be owned by classis.
- There is a possibility of creating a nature preserve in this area.

F. Collaborative Relationships, Larry reporting:

- He will provide the VT with information about SPACT and other reports coming to Synod.
- Alive Ministries is considering doing non-traditional church plants through their programs and work with Jenison Public Schools, beginning with small missional groups.

3-9: Other:

Gerry has come into contact with a Somalian Nigerian pastor, who has a group of about 50 people that are looking for support in finding a place to worship. There is a very unique situation in that they already have a congregation and a potential pastor who will need to be credentialed in the CRC and will need a church to sponsor them, possibly Trinity CRC. Trinity's council will vote on March 25, 2015, on it becoming the new church's sponsor. It is important to not shun protocol, but to adapt and adjust it to this particular situation. Gerry will continue to work with this group.

3:10: Stated Clerk's, Dee reporting:

A. The following proposal was presented to the VT concerning the Alternate Stated Clerk position:

- An Alternate Stated Clerk be officially appointed to this position subject to similar terms as other Classis Georgetown employees.

- The SC and ASC will share duties at each of the three yearly Classis meetings, or the ASC will serve when the SC is unavailable.
- At an unspecified date the SC and ASC will reverse roles.
- When the AA position is vacated, the position may be offered to the ASC at the VT's discretion.
- The honorarium of the ASC will be determined by the Treasurer and the VT.
- The ASC will be accountable to the VT.

B. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve this proposal and another motion was MSC to approve the work of the Stated Clerk.

C. The Council of the Ridgewood CRC requests Classis Georgetown to grant the Rev. Joel Boot honorable emeritation effective June 1, 2015, for the reason of age. (This information was submitted on the credentials form from Ridgewood CRC to Classis Georgetown at the February 19, 2015 meeting, and was dated February 5, 2015, but was referred to the Vision Team for action.) A motion was MSC to approve the retirement of the Rev. Joel Boot.

3-11: Financials, Mel reporting:

Mel offered a brief financial report stating that we need to watch our finances, but that the situation is stable at this time. **Motion was MSC to approve the work of the treasurer.**

3-12: Larry closed our meeting with prayer.

Next meeting dates:

THURSDAY, April 23, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch meeting) at First Hudsonville, Mark, opening; Kathy, closing prayer

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

Respectfully submitted,

DeeVanHeuvelen, Administrative Assistant/Stated Clerk

Classis Georgetown Vision Team