

CLASSIS GEORGETOWN VISION TEAM
Minutes of May 10, 2018 12:30 PM to 2:15 PM

Transforming Lives and Communities

Georgetown CRC, 6475 ~ 40th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

5-1: Josh VanDrunen shared selected verses from Isaiah 55 and Matthew 11. To reflect further on these verses, we listen to them through the words of the song, "Come to the Water". Josh opened our meeting with prayer.

5-2: Vision Team (VT):

Roll Call, PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Rev. Mark Bennink, Rev. Dave Jolman, Rev. Susan LaClear, Rev. Marc Nelesen,
Rev. Josh VanDrunen

STAFF: Mr. Jim Roskam (Classis Coordinator), Ms. Kathy Jelsema (Assistant Treasurer),
Ms. Glenda Tebben (Stated Clerk), Mr. Mel Vander Bie (Treasurer)

5-3: April Vision Team Meeting Minutes

Minutes are accepted as written.

5-4 Financial Report from Mel:

- A. Some expenses were paid out for Josh Benton. At this point, the regional pastors do not foresee any more expenditures for Josh.
- B. Honorariums and expenses for 2nd quarter have been paid. Fund balance is doing well.
- C. Mel will give a final 2017 budget report at Classis meeting.

5-5: Stated Clerk's Report:

- A. Glenda has been in contact with Colin Watson (CRC director of Ministries and Administration); re: communication with classis and ministry representatives. Colin promises coordinated communication in the future.
- B. Glenda received an email from a member of Cottonwood; re: overtures to classis. She spoke with Rev. Matt Palsrok to determine if Cottonwood wanted to have the overture that they sent to the Vision Team in February on the agenda for the May 17 meeting. Because there is no chance of the overture appearing at Synod 2018, Cottonwood does not want it brought to the May meeting. They may still work on it and bring it to the fall Classis meeting. Glenda will reply to the email, explaining our position on the overture process and meeting agenda deadline.
- C. Glenda will continue working on the grant process.
 - i. Glenda proposes that we spend more time on rewriting the grant application process for agencies and ministries so that they reflect our five values. She will inform present grant recipients that they may begin the process of reapplying for 2019.
 - ii. It is important that we clearly communicate to churches in our classis that grant monies are available for special projects or ministry.
 - iii. The grant application for churches needs to be updated to become a flexible grant form.
- D. Vision Team meeting dates are set through September 2018.
- E. The Stated Clerk's report is received as written.

5-6: Regional Pastors report

- A. Rev. Josh Benton continues to work through the process of reevaluation and there is some progress.
- B. Marc asks that the "clergy mental health" agenda item be placed under this section (regional pastors) on future agendas.
- C. Help was given to Brian Bosscher during the time of his wife's illness. Note: gift cards are important to pastors in crisis.

5-7: May 17 Classis Meeting

Meeting agenda is set. Mark Bennink will introduce Joyce.

5-8: Habitat Project

- A. Money is coming in nicely.
- B. Soliciting “gifts in kind”
- C. The house plans have switched from ranch to a bi-level.
- D. There will not be a ground-breaking ceremony, a wall-raising is coming.

5-9: CRASE Training

- A. Zutphen CRC is willing to host a CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) Training.
- B. Mark B. will connect with Ryan DeVries at CRASE to find out their availability and will arrange the date with Josh and Zutphen CRC.
- C. Invitations and information will be sent out by Glenda when a date is set.

5-10 Future Classis Meetings (ideas and themes):

Jim presented some ideas and Marc added “meat” to the ideas by presenting suggestions for the Vision Team to as we think about future meetings.

- A. Build on the Birkman experience by offering a “discover the enneagram” opportunity for pastors who want to grow in self-awareness.
- B. Sponsor a book and lunch event. This would be on growing clergy character and capacity or engaging the challenges/dynamics of being a pastor.
- C. Add to our “classis curriculum” an educational/training component specifically for pastors and other leaders (either before or after a typical classis meeting). Discussion item ideas: “leading through transition”, “leadership in anxious times”, or “clergy leadership and loss” themes. It is important to provide opportunities and space to address issues our pastors and leaders my struggle with.

5-11 Vision Team Report for Classis Meeting

Jim shared a well-written, concise report on the work of the Vision Team that he will present at the May 17 meeting.

5-12: Time to Connect about ourselves and our churches

- A. Rev. Stan Sturing is the interim pastor at Fairway. We hope he provides positive leadership and guidance.
- B. Mark Bennink and the council of 12th Avenue met with Marc and Jim. They continue to wonder about their future and the plans God has for them.
- C. Alive Ministries held a Leadership Summit and Susan is encouraged by the outpouring of stories of God sightings that were shared.
- D. Josh VanDrunen’s father-in-law was is dealing with a reoccurrence of prostate cancer. We pray for strength, peace, and healing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- E. Jim shared some reflections after 1½ years as Classis Coordinator. He enjoys his work, especially the meetings he’s had with pastors and church councils. We are thankful for his competent leadership.

5-13: Jim Roskam closed our meeting with prayer.

5-14: May 31, 2018 - Addendum to the May 10 meeting minutes

Proposal: That the Vision Team begins to encourage pastors to share with each other something God is doing in their churches or, share their wisdom, insights, and learning in a setting outside their local church.

Rationale: The pastors of Classis Georgetown have a lot of wisdom, learning and experience to share and it would be good to create a forum where this could be done. This can also be an opportunity to learn about what God is doing in the local churches.

Via electronic voting this proposal passed on May 31, 2018, and we will move forth with the recommendation. This will be included as a discussion item on our July 19 meeting agenda for further review.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben

Stated Clerk, Classis Georgetown

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES

Vision Team:

- Thursday, July 19, Georgetown CRC, Dave, opening; Marc N., closing
- Thursday, August 23, VT Retreat at Colonial Clock Building in Zeeland
- Thursday, September 20, Georgetown CRC, Susan, opening; Mark B., closing

Classis Meetings:

- Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Messiah CRC.
- Thursday, October 18, 2018 – time and location TBD